

Neighborhood

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TODAY:  
HEALTH  
SCIENCE  
Acupuncture Page 11

## South Korea Rejects Idea It Needs Aid From IMF

But Seoul Asks U.S.  
And Japan for Help  
To Stem the Won's Fall

By Sandra Sugawara  
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — A defiant South Korea rejected assertions Wednesday that it needed a bailout from the International Monetary Fund, and suggested instead that the United States and Japan lend it a hand before its problems reverberate into their markets.

"There is no need for financial help from the IMF," the new South Korean finance minister, Lim Chang Yul, said at a news conference in Seoul hours after his appointment.

His predecessor, Kang Kyung Shik, was forced from his post early Wednesday after failing to see through leg-

islative reforms of a deteriorating financial system — whose currency is plummeting and bad debt is rising. The won sank to another new low against the dollar, closing at 1,035.50.

Mr. Lim, a former minister of trade, industry and energy and a veteran of seven years at the IMF in Washington, said government measures he unveiled Wednesday to slow the economic hemorrhaging meant that IMF aid was unnecessary. But the initial reaction was disappointment.

"The current situation in Korea is very urgent," said Kim Pyong Sok, an analyst in Seoul with Hannu Investment Securities. "Today's announcement is mid-term and long-term medicine. We need an emergency operation. In this regard, today's announcement is far short of our expectations."

In rejecting IMF assistance, Mr. Lim said that Seoul was hoping for the strong cooperation of Washington and Japan, although he did not specify what he wanted. He also said it would seek assistance from other central banks.

He noted that South Korea was a major export market for the United States and that such cooperation would be mutually beneficial. An

See KOREA, Page 6

## AGENDA

### Americans Abroad Warned of Violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans were advised Wednesday by the State Department "to exercise greater than usual caution" in traveling abroad.

"We cannot discount the possibility of random acts of anti-American violence," a department statement said. Americans abroad were urged to keep in touch with U.S. embassies or consulates for information in the country they were visiting. "We know of specific threats to U.S. citizens or interests overseas."

| The Dollar |                  |                |         |
|------------|------------------|----------------|---------|
| New York   | Tuesday @ 4 P.M. | previous close |         |
| DM         | 1.729            | 1.7314         |         |
| Pound      | 1.691            | 1.6947         |         |
| Yen        | 126.135          | 125.60         |         |
| FF         | 5.7922           | 5.7905         |         |
| The Dow    |                  |                |         |
|            | Tuesday close    | previous close |         |
|            | 47.4             | 7650.52        | 7650.22 |
| S&P 500    |                  |                |         |
| change     | Tuesday @ 4 P.M. | previous close |         |
|            | -7.97            | 938.23         | 946.20  |

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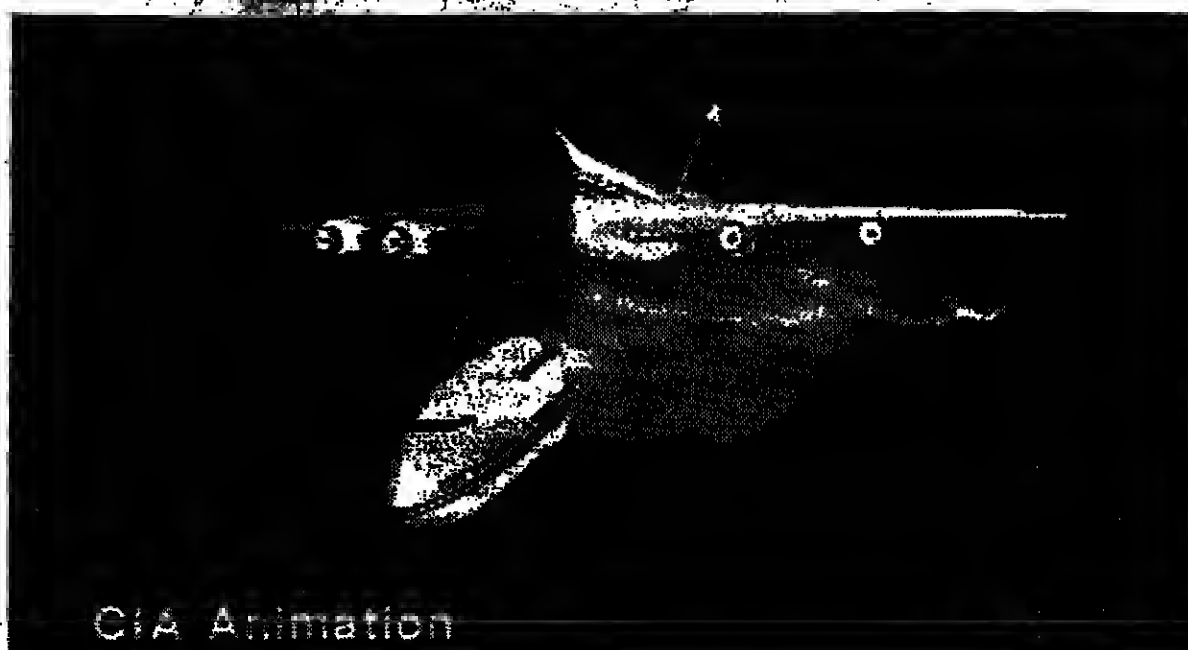
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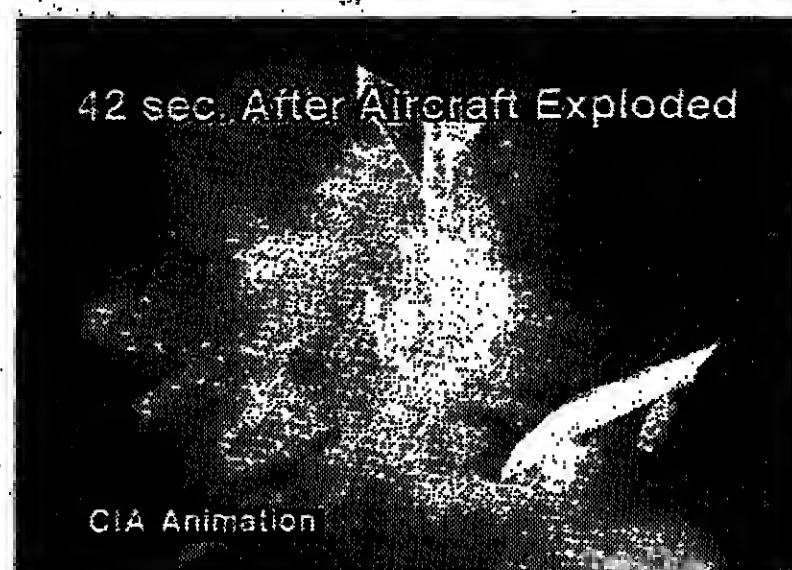
|               |           |              |           |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Bahrain       | 1,000 BD  | Mali         | 55        |
| Cyprus        | 1,000 CYP | Nigeria      | 125.00    |
| Denmark       | 14.00 DKK | Oman         | 1,250 OR  |
| Finland       | 12.00 FIM | Qatar        | 10.00 QR  |
| Gibraltar     | 2.00 GIP  | Rep. Ireland | 1.00 IR   |
| Great Britain | 1.00 GBP  | Saudi Arabia | 10 SR     |
| Germany       | 1.00 DM   | S. Africa    | 112 + VAT |
| India         | 1,250 INR | U.A.E.       | 10.00 Dh  |
| Japan         | 100 Yen   | U.S. (Excl.) | 1.20      |
| Korea         | 1,000 Won | Zimbabwe     | 200 Zim   |

## Reenacting the Disaster of TWA Flight 800



CIA Animation

Sixteen months after an explosion blew apart TWA Flight 800 over the Atlantic Ocean, the FBI has explained how it arrived at its verdict on the disaster by showing a computer-generated reconstruction of the explosion. As families of the victims looked on, the animated reenactment showed the cockpit of the Boeing 747 being blown off the front section of the fuselage, top, and the rest of the plane disintegrating 42 seconds later. The videotape produced by the CIA sought to explain the reports of 244 witnesses who said they saw ascending lights before the plane plunged into the ocean. Page 3.



42 sec. After Aircraft Exploded

CIA Animation

## Albright Meeting Europeans on Iraq In Geneva, Diplomats Seek Answer To Standoff Over Arms Inspections

By Steven Erlanger  
New York Times Service

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright broke off her visit to India to join three European foreign ministers at a meeting early Thursday morning in Geneva that could bring the three-week old crisis with Iraq to a peaceful end.

Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian foreign minister, has been spearheading efforts by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to find a way to defuse the crisis. He met in Moscow this week with Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister of Iraq, and hasty arrangements for the Geneva meeting began shortly after.

After a blizzard of telephone calls to discuss schedules, flying times and substance, Mrs. Albright and the foreign ministers of Russia, Britain and France Mr. Primakov, Robin Cook and Hubert Vedrine, agreed to meet to see if Baghdad was willing to back down from its challenge to the United Nations over the inspections of Iraq's weapons programs on terms Washington was willing to accept.

Speaking to a White House gathering several hours before the Geneva meeting, President Bill Clinton said the United States wanted to resolve the stand-off diplomatically, but was "taking every step to make sure we are prepared to pursue whatever options are necessary."

And at the airport in Cairo, Mrs. Albright said: "As President Clinton has said, Iraq must not be allowed to threaten the world through the development of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. No outcome short of that is acceptable."

Senior American officials were extremely reluctant to discuss the substance of the meeting in Geneva before it began. The officials refused to assess Mr. Primakov's claims that his discussions with Mr. Aziz had produced a way to bring Iraq back into compliance with UN resolutions, while at the same time satisfying Iraqi demands for a rapid conclusion to the United Nations' open-ended search for chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

See IRAQ, Page 6

## Ahead of Jobs Summit, Europe Is Hardly United

Currency Disputes  
Now Chiefly Political

Spain Hopes Leaders  
Will Target Flexibility

By Alan Friedman  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — With less than six months to go before the decision on which nations will be chosen to launch the euro, Europe's leaders will take every opportunity — including their Luxembourg summit meeting on Thursday and Friday — to restate their unanimous commitment to a single currency.

But with up to 11 nations soon to march in economic lockstep, the Con-

By Barry James  
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — With Europe's highest rate of unemployment but also its best record of creating jobs, Spain is looking forward to the European Union's summit conference on unemployment Thursday and Friday in Luxembourg with particular interest.

Spain accounted for 350,000 of the 590,000 jobs created in Europe last year and is expected to account for 335,000 of the 700,000 new jobs in 1997.

But even if it continues performing at this rate for the next four years, according to projections, it will have succeeded only in reducing unemployment from the official figure of 20.9 percent currently to about 17 percent — or more than twice the average 7 percent jobless rate that the European Commission, the EU's executive body, hopes to achieve within five years.

Some 18 million people in the 15 EU countries are listed as unemployed, for an average jobless rate of 10.6 percent.

Total employment in the EU has hardly increased in two decades. Unemployment is generally considered to be Europe's most pressing challenge, but on the eve of the summit meeting there was little agreement on how to deal with it.

Germany is leading the countries that oppose setting the kind of "verifiable and quantifiable" EU-wide targets that the commission is proposing. It says employment policy must remain the responsibility of national governments.

France, on the other hand, wants unemployment to be put high on the EU's agenda, arguing that citizens will not

## NEWS ANALYSIS

tain's leaders do not have a single vision about the shape of the European economy.

The battles over budget deficits and other numerical targets have receded, and the go-ahead of the euro is increasingly certain. The French government, for example, introduced a supplementary budget Wednesday aimed at bringing the 1997 deficit down to 3.1 percent of gross domestic product, which should ensure that France qualifies. (Page 15)

But from now until the decision in May on euro membership, battles will be fought over more political issues, ranging from who will run the future European Central Bank to how to tackle Europe's 11 percent unemployment rate — a kind of turf-building that is emblematic of the culture clash over what kind of European economy will emerge as a result of monetary union.

At the extremes are two conflicting visions about the shape of the European economy — one, a laissez-faire Europe that creates jobs and growth through

See RUSSIA, Page 6

## Top Russian Reformer Loses a Post

By David Hoffman  
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Russia's embattled economic reformer, Deputy Prime Minister Anatoli Chubais, was taken down another notch on Wednesday as the Kremlin decided to strip him of another one of his most powerful posts, minister of finance.

Mr. Chubais has held both jobs since March, when he and a former provincial governor, Boris Nemtsov, took charge of economic reforms for President Boris Yeltsin's second term. What was then described as the most pre-reform Yeltsin team since 1992 now is in serious trouble.

Reeling from a book-consultant scandal

that has already forced Mr. Chubais to resign his top aide, the latest setback came as Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin tried to placate members of the lower house of Parliament, the 450-member State Duma, which is dominated by Communists and nationalists who despise Mr. Chubais. They voted Wednesday, 267 to 4, to approve a nonbinding resolution calling for Mr. Chubais to be dismissed.

Mr. Chernomyrdin told them that Mr. Chubais and other deputy prime ministers would be stripped of their ministries such as finance and energy because they are "too overloaded" to pay enough attention. Mr. Nemtsov serves as minister of energy.

There are three other deputy prime

ministers who also hold separate ministerial portfolios.

The decision, later confirmed by the Kremlin, was aimed squarely at Mr. Chubais, who had kept the finance portfolio for himself because he saw his presence as the linchpin for such vital economic reform issues as overhaul of the tax code and the budget battle with the Duma.

Mr. Chubais has acknowledged that he and four aides each received \$90,000 to write a still-unpublished book on the history of Russian privatization.

The payments came from a publishing house now partly owned by a bank, Uneximbank, which has been a big win-

## China's 'Time for Silence' Drags On

Dissidents Welcome Wei's Release but See No Change in Policy

By Seth Faison  
New York Times Service

BEIJING — Inside an ash-gray apartment block, up a stairway made narrow by stacks of winter cabbage, a gray-haired veteran of China's dissident movement held a finger to his lips as he opened the front door, silencing a visitor until the door was safely closed, the shades drawn and tea served.

Seated in a cramped living room, the dissident was eager to discuss the politics of the day, and he traded opinions and gossip with the fervor of a tabloid columnist. But he lamented the way Beijing's tightly constricted political atmosphere made it impossible for him to speak publicly, lest he be sent back to jail.

The release of Wei Jingsheng, China's leading dissident, who flew to the United States on Sunday, leaves behind a small band of political partisans who are essentially powerless to voice their concerns, much less organize any significant advocacy. Other dissidents languish in prison, similarly silent.

Wei Jingsheng feared he would die if he remained in prison. Page 6.

The gray-haired dissident said that the release of Mr. Wei, while bringing cheer to many sympathizers who are happy to see him free, had not otherwise altered the monotonous political landscape for dissidents in China. The Communist Party tolerates no open questioning of its authority these days.

"There is a time to speak out and a time for silence," the dissident said. "Now is still a time for silence."

There is virtually no public debate of political issues in China today. Political reform, religious freedom, even China's ambitious dam projects: Almost every topic of political substance has been banned from serious discussion in public meetings or in the state-run media.

One measure of how constricted the political atmosphere is in Beijing can be seen in the fact that there simply are not many dissidents to check on. Two who openly criticized government policies

in the past said Tuesday that it was "not convenient" to meet or discuss the political situation.

A central paradox of China today is that such strict political limitations coincide with a tremendous expansion of personal freedom in recent years. Economic growth has brought an ever-wider array of choices when it comes to a job, a

place of residence or a spouse — all areas where the Communist Party authorities once wielded near-absolute control.

"Ordinary people pay less attention to politics today than they did a few years ago," said the gray-haired dissident. "That's good. It means they can

See CHINA, Page 6

## Egypt's Temple of Blood

Tourists Sought Shelter Behind Giant Pillars  
As Killers Hunted Them on Pharaoh's Terrace

By John Lancaster  
Washington Post Service

LUXOR, Egypt — Visitors to the massive Temple of Hatshepsut near here are invariably drawn to the Birth Colonnade, a small, sheltered space at the back of a vast terrace, where ancient murals depict the procreation and birth of the queen for whom the temple was built.

On Monday, the Birth Colonnade became a place of death.

Under heavy fire from Islamic militants who stormed up a broad ramp to the temple's second level, many foreign tourists sought shelter behind the huge sandstone pillars that support the roof of the Birth Colonnade.

But the refuge turned out to be a trap. The killers hunted their quarry and shot them where they crouched or lay, stabbing some with knives as well. Some were mutilated.

Before they made their exit, leaving more than 60 people dead or dying, the killers scattered leaflets on behalf of the Islamic Group, Egypt's largest and most violent militant organization.

The death toll was unprecedented in the revolt by Islamic extremists against the secular government. Coming after several years of relative calm, the at-

tack raised fears of an escalation in the largely underground conflict. With the failure of security forces to protect one of the world's most famous tourist destinations, it also dealt a powerful blow to Egypt's all-important tourist

industry, as some foreign tour operators ordered patrons home and canceled coming visits.

According to figures made public Tuesday, the militants killed 58 foreign tourists from Switzerland, Japan, Germany, Britain and several other countries. They also killed four Egyptians, including police officers.

Twenty-four people were wounded. All six militants were killed during ensuing gun battles with the police.

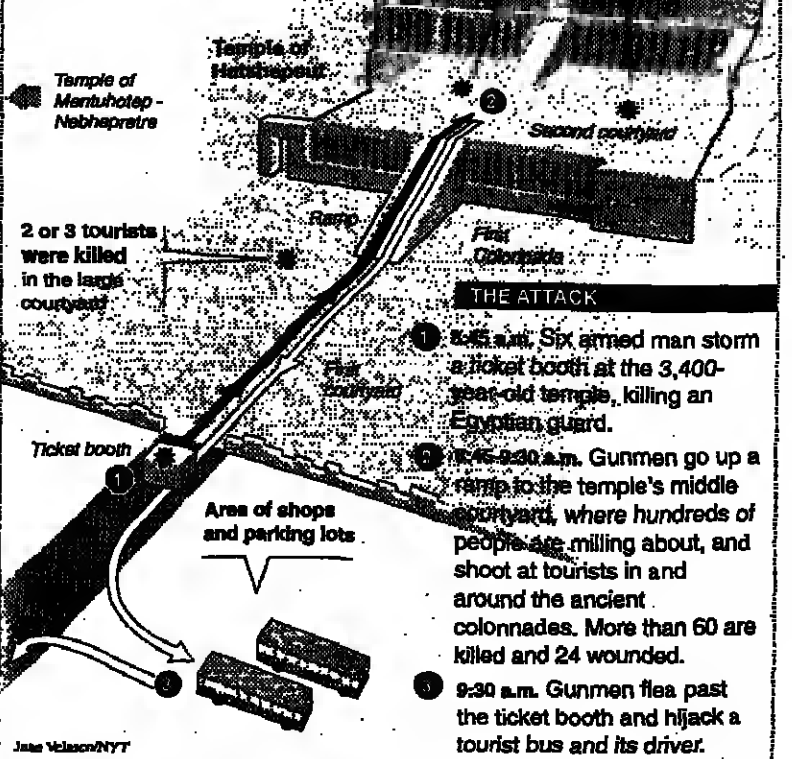
There was nothing to indicate that the militants took any step to seize hostages or to spare their victims' lives. A reconstruction of the incident — based largely on witnesses' accounts — suggests that the opposite was true.

"They made us get down on our knees, and then they started shooting,"

See LUXOR, Page 6

## Scene of Horror

A reconstruction of the killings at the Temple of Hatshepsut, near Luxor, Egypt, on Monday, from official and eyewitness accounts.



20-25 tourists were killed on each side of this colonnade, in front of and behind the columns.

2 or 3 tourists were killed in the large courtyard.

THE ATTACK

8:45 a.m. Six armed men storm a ticket booth at the 3,400-year-old temple, killing an Egyptian guard.

9:00 a.m. Gunmen go up a ramp to the temple's middle courtyard, where hundreds of people are milling about, and shoot at tourists in and around the ancient colonnades. More than 60 are killed and 24 wounded.

9:30 a.m. Gunmen flee past the ticket booth and hijack a tourist bus and its driver.



## Again, Somalia Is Ravaged

The relief efforts ended in a debacle, with 18 American soldiers dead because of fighting among faction leaders and

"The people here have never heard or seen such flooding," said the village chief, Bara Irad Ali. "It has never



The rising floodwaters have brought other kinds of death.

"The water is highly contaminated," he said. "Two-thirds of the latrines have been damaged and flooded. We are very afraid. Our concern is an outbreak of cholera. It's endemic here. If there was a cholera outbreak, we are not in a position to do a lot."

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Europe</b> | <b>Forecast for Friday through Sunday</b> |
|---------------|---|

year ago, the Statistical Office in Port Louis said. (Reuters)

|           |       |       |       |       |       |    |  |  |  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|--|--|--|
| Algiers   | 18/06 | 10/50 | 17/02 | 10/50 | r     |    |  |  |  |
| Cape Town | 21/70 | 11/52 | sh    | 16/01 | 0/43  | 0  |  |  |  |
| Cambridge | 18/04 | 12/50 | sh    | 17/02 | 0/43  | sh |  |  |  |
| Hanover   | 26/79 | 0/43  |       | 26/04 | 0/43  | 0  |  |  |  |
| Lagos     | 31/88 | 26/79 | 0     | 30/03 | 26/79 | r  |  |  |  |
| Nairobi   | 27/80 | 19/55 | c     | 27/80 | 13/55 | c  |  |  |  |

## COPACABANA PALACE HOTEL,

### RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

|                |       |       |    |       |      |   |  |  |  |
|----------------|-------|-------|----|-------|------|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Oceania</b> |       |       |    |       |      |   |  |  |  |
| Auckland       | 18/04 | 12/50 | ps | 16/01 | 0/43 | 0 |  |  |  |

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THE AMERICAS

# Recreating a Disaster: FBI Details How It Arrived at Its TWA Verdict

By Benjamin Weiser  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Sixteen months after an explosion blew apart TWA Flight 800, the FBI has provided a rare public explanation of how it became convinced that the crash of the Paris-bound flight was not the result of sabotage.

The centerpiece of the bureau's presentation Tuesday was a computer-generated reconstruction of the crash, a videotape produced by the CIA that sought to explain the reports of 244 witnesses who said they saw ascending lights before the plane plunged into the Atlantic Ocean.

The reports of those rising lights had fueled a variety of theories, many of them circulated on the Internet, that a missile — possibly even one fired by the U.S. military — had brought down the plane.

In fact, the FBI said, people who believed they saw a missile were actually seeing different stages of the fiery breakup of the aircraft. And after the plane first exploded, blowing off the cockpit and front section of the fuselage, the flaming rear section zoomed upward several thousand feet, giving some witnesses the impression that a missile was rising in the sky, officials said.

"Twenty-one witnesses said they had seen something ascend and culminate in an explosion. But the CIA determined that they had almost certainly seen the flanging fuselage as it pitched upward abruptly and erupted into a fireball."

"From a distance of nine miles or more this may have looked like a missile attacking an aircraft," the FBI report said, "but nothing in their statements leads CIA analysts to conclude that these eyewitnesses in fact saw a missile."

FBI officials said they felt compelled to engage in the public accounting as a way of convincing skeptics of their conclusions. From the moment the plane exploded on July 17, 1996, many criminal investigators and U.S. government officials strongly suspected that terrorists were responsible for it. And the active participation of the FBI in the early stages of the investigation reinforced the impression that the crash was probably the result of a criminal act.

But as the investigation proceeded with no proof of either sabotage or a specific mechanical failure, FBI investigators turned their focus to satisfying themselves, and then the public, that their initial hunches were wrong.

James Kallstrom, head of the New York office of the FBI, said at a press conference that the bureau's decision to suspend its investigation was "based solely on the overwhelming absence of evidence indicating a crime, and the lack of any leads that could bear on the issue. In fact, we ran out of things to do."

Mr. Kallstrom's decision to appear and describe so thoroughly the government's vast investigation, in which 7,000 interviews were conducted and about one million pieces of the wreckage were recovered and analyzed, was "a little unprecedented," he acknowledged.

He said, for example, that forensic experts had analyzed more than 1,400 holes in the many layers of metal in the recovered pieces of the plane, determining their relationship with each other in hopes of finding a telltale path through which a missile or other object might have moved.

A number of family members who attended the press conference Tuesday said that Mr. Kallstrom's statement satisfied them and that they would turn their attention to the continuing investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board, which plans to hold hearings on the crash next month in Baltimore.

But the family members in attendance, and others who received a preview of the video at FBI offices Monday, said it was difficult to watch the tape, which offered a graphic depiction of the explosion of the central fuel tank, the decapitation of the cockpit and the front end of the aircraft and the subsequent second explosion of the fuselage.

"As a family member, you sit and you always have these fears of what your family must have experienced when the plane was falling apart," said Joseph Lychner of Houston, whose 37-year-old wife, Pam, and two daughters, Katie, 8, and Shannon, 10, were killed in the disaster.

"Frankly, that confirms my worst nightmare, that they probably didn't die in the initial explosion and that for at least 45 seconds, they experienced just utter terror."

Even though it only provided a simulated version of the events of last summer, the CIA tape provided a dramatic postscript to the government's criminal investigation, and it offered a detailed account of the breakup of the plane from the initial explosion to the impact in the ocean 49 seconds later.

The tape also described three distinct explosions that Mr. Kallstrom said helped explain the

varying accounts of the witnesses.

The CIA's analysis began with what was known about the plane at the moment of the explosion: altitude, speed and heading. The aircraft's location was recorded continuously on radar in 12 locations on the East Coast. An infrared sensor on a U.S. satellite "pinned" to a millisecond "when the second and final huge fireball explosion took place," Mr. Kallstrom said.

In addition, each of the 244 eyewitness reports were then factored in, he said, as was the location on the ground of the witnesses and the position in the sky of what they saw.

As the safety board pursues the question of whether a mechanical failure, such as a short circuit in wiring around the tank, led to the explosion, a lawyer for families of 77 victims said the FBI's findings meshed with his own investigation.

"We have felt from the very beginning that this was a good and strong product liability case," Lee Kreindler said.

Representatives of TWA and the plane's manufacturer, Boeing Corp., said Tuesday that there was no indication of any flaws, either in Flight 800 or in 747s in general.

## U.S. Census Shows Cities In South Still Growing Fast

By Steven A. Holmes  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Highlighting three trends — continued migration to the Sun Belt, immigration from Mexico and the growth of cities that serve as nearby alternatives to traditional urban centers — the Census Bureau has issued its list of the country's fastest-growing cities.

Although the cities cited by the Census Bureau as growing the fastest since 1990 are showing phenomenal growth, virtually all were relatively small to begin with. Of the top 10 cities in growth, only one, Las Vegas, started the decade with a population that was more than 200,000. Its population rose to 376,906, from 258,204.

All 10 of the fastest growing cities are in the Sun Belt, in 5 states: California, Florida, Texas, Arizona and Nevada.

According to the Census Bureau, the city that grew most rapidly from 1990 to 1996 was Henderson, Nevada, where the population rose by 88.4 percent, to 122,339. Henderson was followed by Chandler, Arizona, with a 59 percent increase; Palmdale, California, up 53.5 percent; Palmdale, California, up 51.6 percent; and Plano, Texas, up 50.4 percent.

Filling out the top 10 are Las Vegas, up 46 percent; Scottsdale, Arizona, up 37.6 percent; Laredo, Texas, up 34.2 percent; Coral Springs, Florida, up 33.5 percent; and Corona, California, up 32 percent.

A close examination of the list of fast-growing cities shows that most are in areas that would normally be considered suburbs of older cities.

For example, Henderson is a suburb of Las Vegas. Chandler is a suburb of Phoenix. Palmdale is a suburb of Los Angeles. Plano is a suburb of Dallas.

Of the 15 fastest growing cities, 11 are suburbs of older, larger urban centers.

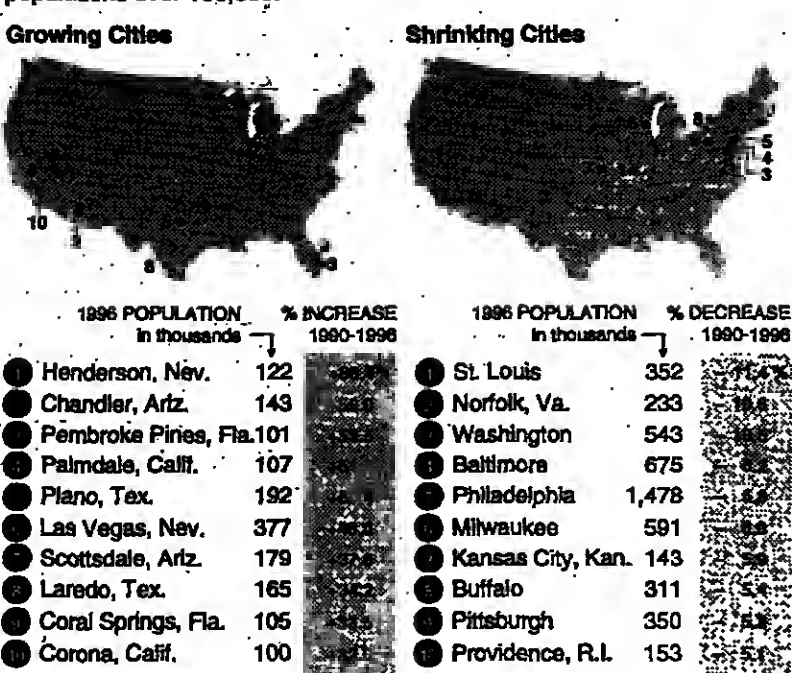
Growth of these cities is further evidence of the development of what demographers call "edge cities." These are cities that have grown up in suburbs, some relatively close, others more distant, to older urban areas and provide alternative residential, business and recreational centers to major cities.

As has been the case for several decades now, virtually all the cities that lost the most population were in the Northeast or the Midwest. Those that lost the most population were St. Louis, Missouri, which shrank by 11.4 percent; Norfolk, Virginia, down 10.6 percent; Washington, down 10.5 percent; Baltimore, down 8.2 percent; and Philadelphia, down 8.2 percent.

Among the 20 fastest growing cities, three — Laredo, Brownsville and McAllen, all in Texas — are on or near the Mexican border and have become magnets for immigrants from Mexico.

### Winners and Losers

The cities with the fastest growing and fastest shrinking populations based on new estimates from the Census Bureau. Figures are for cities with populations over 100,000.



## Cuba Weighed Heavily on '60s Pentagon

From the Vicious to the Zany, a Slew of 'Operations' to Bring Down Castro

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — When John Glenn lifted off into space in a Mercury capsule on Feb. 20, 1962, military planners at the Pentagon were thinking of blaming Fidel Castro if the astronaut failed to return safely.

The proposal was called Operation Dirty Trick and, according to long-secret documents made public Tuesday, the idea was "to provide irrevocable proof that, should the Mercury manned orbit flight fail, the fault lies with the Communists at Cuba."

This could be accomplished, the planners said in a memo dated Feb. 2, 1962, "by manufacturing various pieces of evidence which would prove electronic interference on the part of the Cubans."

Mr. Glenn, of course, returned safely after becoming the first American to orbit Earth. But the memo, addressed to a U.S. Air Force brigadier general, Edward Lansdale, head of Operation Mongoose — an elaborate scheme aimed at promoting revolt in Cuba — was full of other suggestions, some quite zany.

There was, for instance, Operation Good Time, which would have fabricated a photo of "an obese Castro with two beards in any situation desired" near a table brimming over with the most delectable Cuban food, "accompanied by the caption, 'My nation is different.'"

This should put even a Communist dictator in the proper perspective with the underlying masses, the memo said.

The covert action proposals were among 1,500 pages of classified records made public by the Assassination Records Review Board, a small agency overseeing the release of records related to the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

After the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion in mid-April 1961, Mr. Kennedy convened a meeting of the National Security Council to talk about what to do next about Cuba. According to a memo for the record that appeared to contain exact quotes from the session on April 22, 1961, the president said guerrilla operations should be discontinued, but asked "whether we should form a Cuban Foreign Legion, trained as a volunteer force."

One of the items assigned for study

"on an urgent basis" after the Bay of Pigs fiasco was what the United States would do if faced with several contingencies, including "establishment of a Soviet missile base" in Cuba. The State Department was told to study the matter.

The discovery of Soviet missiles on Cuba in the fall of 1962 provoked one of the most tense episodes of the Cold War.

At another National Security Council meeting on May 5, 1961, the records show, "It was agreed that U.S. policy should aim at the downfall of Castro."

Mr. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, left the new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, unenthusiastic about "high-risk actions" involving sabotage and harassment. A memo summarizing a high-level Dec. 19, 1963, meeting on Cuba stated that Mr. Johnson was "most interested in economic denial actions." But he said he did not want to jeopardize chances of getting the Organization of American States to back actions against Cuba. He said he also wanted to continue to work for "further reductions in Soviet military personnel" on the island.

### POLITICAL NOTES

#### States Defend Role In Presidential Race

WASHINGTON — In an early warning that interlopers had better not poach on their states' outsized influence in presidential contests, Governors Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Terry Branstad of Iowa have announced the creation of a commission to preserve the early contests.

The formal, bipartisan alliance is a first and demonstrates that even more than two years before the primary season for 2000, the governors are concerned that the efforts by many states to schedule earlier contests in 1996 will only intensify.

"We want to protect a system that has worked well for the American people," Mr. Branstad said. The commission's goal is to make clear, early on, that "we're in business," he said Tuesday.

For decades, presidential candidates have lavished unusually heavy attention on Iowa, which holds the first presidential caucuses, and New Hampshire, the site of the first primary. But the primacy of the two states has always ranked other states, which grouse about being cheated out of the extensive (and intensive) candidate visits and voter courtships.

"They can do whatever they want," said Art Torres, chairman of the California Democratic Party. "But quite frankly, the largest state

#### Tobacco Deal Cash: Squabbling Begins

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is squabbling with state officials over how to split a possible \$368 billion settlement between the tobacco companies and 40 states — even before the accord is approved at the federal level.

In a letter this month, the Department of Health and Human Services put state officials on notice that Washington will seek to recover from the settlement the federal share of any Medicaid funds spent on treating people with smoking-related illnesses.

Citing Social Security Act provisions, the department's Health

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said, "States must allocate from the amount of any Medicaid-related recovery the pro-rata share to which the United States is equitably entitled."

The federal government pays for between 50 percent and 70 percent of what states spend on Medicaid, a health insurance program aimed primarily at low-income families.

Within a week of getting the letter, the attorneys general of all 50 states responded with a letter to President Bill Clinton, saying, "The citizens of our states are entitled to the benefit of the litigation we have prosecuted on their behalf."

The executive committee of the National Governors' Association resolved last month to "strongly oppose federal efforts to seize state settlement funds."

Meanwhile, the 105th Congress adjourned its 1997 session last week putting off until next year consideration of bills that would implement a settlement. (AP)

## Assisted Suicide in Oregon Faces Federal Intervention

By Timothy Egan  
New York Times Service

PORTLAND, Oregon — The single-page form, titled "Request for medication to end my life in a humane and dignified manner," is circulating now in the only state to legalize assisted suicide.

But whether doctors in Oregon will actually do what the law allows them to is suddenly clouded by a threat from Washington, D.C.

Acting on a request by two Republican members of Congress who oppose the Oregon law, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration has warned that doctors here who prescribe drugs to help terminally ill patients kill themselves could face severe sanctions.

Any doctor who writes a prescription for suicide would be violating the Controlled Substances Act because it is not a legitimate medical purpose for the drugs, wrote Thomas Constantine, the administrator of the agency.

The policy statement, written just after Oregon voters

overwhelmingly affirmed their first-in-the-nation law on assisted suicide, may not necessarily have the support of the Justice Department, which is now reviewing the law.

But the warning has had such a chilling effect that the leading medical group in Oregon is now advising doctors not to write what is a legal prescription in this state.

"The only official word we have is that physicians who prescribe barbiturates for assisted suicide could face sanctions," said Dr. Charles Hofmann, president of the Oregon Medical Association.

"Our recommendation would be to not become involved until this is settled. So, the chilling effect is just that," the group represents 5,700 doctors in Oregon.

Dr. Hofmann and leading political and medical officials on both sides of the issue expressed exasperation and anger at the threat of federal intervention. It came about after Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, and Representative Henry Hyde, Re-

publican of Illinois, wrote the drug agency, citing reasons that it should oppose the Oregon law.

In a reversal of the usual political postures, some conservatives are arguing for federal meddling and liberals are embracing states' rights. Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, opposes assisted suicide but said he was infuriated over the maneuver that has effectively stalled a vote of the people in his state.

"The drug enforcement agency indicates they want to declare war on physicians in Oregon and those they serve by threatening to revoke the drug-dispensing privileges of any physician who abides by the law that Oregon has now passed on two occasions," he said.

Mr. Wyden and Governor John Kitzhaber of Oregon, a Democrat who is also a doctor, are trying to convince Attorney General Janet Reno that any sanctions against doctors who prescribe for assisted suicide would be a misreading of the law on controlled substances.

## Saul Chaplin, Songwriter, Is Dead

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Saul Chaplin, 85, an Academy Award-winning songwriter, producer, musical director and vocal arranger who worked on more than 60 Hollywood films, died Saturday in Los Angeles of injuries suffered in a fall.

Mr. Chaplin, whose original surname was Kaplan, made his name as a songwriter in the 1930s. His collaborations included Sammy Cahn, Johnny Mercer and Al Jolson. His most famous songs, "Until the Real Thing Comes Along" (1936) and "Please Be Kind" (1938), were collaborations with Mr. Cahn, as was the English version of the Andrews Sisters' signature song, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon," which became the first million-selling single for the trio in 1937.

Mr. Chaplin and Mr. Cahn went to Hollywood in 1940 to write songs for B-movie musicals for Columbia. In 1947, with Mr. Jolson, he adapted "The Anniversary Song" from Ion Ivanovici's waltz "Waves of the Danube." It became a million-seller.

In the 1950s, Mr. Chaplin was the musical arranger of Hollywood musicals. He won five Academy Awards (out of five nominations) for the scoring of a musical picture, sharing an Oscar with Johnny Green for "An American in Paris," with Adolph Deutsch for "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," and with Mr. Green, Sid Ramin and Irwin Kostal for "West Side Story."

Robert Kane, 72, Noted Travel Writer — NEW YORK (NYT) — Robert Kane, 72, a travel writer and creator of the "A to Z" and "World at Its Best" guides, died of a heart attack Nov. 10 at his home here.

Mr. Kane's guides were unusual in that they consisted of firsthand accounts rather than collections of reports by other writers, and they were well received as easygoing and readable.

He was among the first American travel writers to focus on sub-Saharan Africa when it emerged from European colonial rule. The region formed the subject of his first book, "Africa A to Z: A

Guide for Travelers — Annals of the American Academy (Doubleday, 1961; revised, 1972). The 1980 publication of the "A to Z" series was taken over by Rand McNally, and Mr. Kane began his subsequent series, "World at Its Best," in 1985.

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## Away From Politics

• The American Medical Association is of-fering accreditation for doctors, with detailed evaluations to be sold to hospitals and insurance companies. (NYT)

• The United States has banned imports of cattle, sheep, their meat and many related products from Belgium after a case of "mad-cow" disease was reported there. (AP)

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

## Indonesia Says Haze Is Clearing

Arrival of Rainy Season  
Helps Airports Stay Open

Reuters

JAKARTA — Indonesia's 13 regional airports, which have been frequently shut in recent months because of reduced visibility caused by smog, have all reopened with the arrival of monsoon rains, government officials said Wednesday.

Officials said sporadic and scattered rain had been falling throughout the length of Sumatra Island and across Kalimantan on the Indonesian part of Borneo Island in the last week.

"The rains don't come in a big out-break," a weather official said. "They start step-by-step, and even though the rainfall is sporadic, we can say the wet season has started."

Data from the Indonesian Environmental Impact Management Agency showed visibility in excess of 3,000 meters (1.9 miles) at 13 airports that had been affected by smog.

An agency official said the fire coordinating post had received no reports of satellite-detected "hot spots," generally thought to be fires, in three days. But she added it was not clear if this was because of technical problems.

Fires across Indonesia, mainly set to clear land for planting, sent a choking haze over large areas of Southeast Asia in recent months, triggering health alerts. The haze reached as far as the Philippines, Australia and Sri Lanka.

Forestry specialists said much of the smog from Kalimantan was coming from smoldering peat bogs, and these fires would be almost impossible to extinguish without heavy prolonged rain. A meteorological official said weather satellites showed Kalimantan and Sumatra covered in heavy clouds, indicating a high probability of rain.

While data from the Indonesian agency indicated some haze was still present on Sumatra and Kalimantan, visibility in key towns was good.

During the height of the smog problem, declared a natural disaster by the government, visibility in the worst-affected areas was regularly less than 10 meters.

### Smogless Skies in Singapore

The choking haze that has hung over much of Southeast Asia since summer is gone, meteorologists said Wednesday. The Associated Press reported from Singapore.

"The monsoon rains and the increased persistence of northeast winds will keep Singapore clear of haze in months to come," Wong Teo Suan, an official with Singapore's weather service said.

"The whole region is clearing," he added, "and whatever remains behind should be doused by rain."



Onlookers gathering to inspect the bomb crater at D. Rama Naidu film studio near Hyderabad on Wednesday

## Bomb at Film Studio in India Kills 23

The Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India — A bomb exploded Wednesday outside a film studio in southern India during a gathering of actors, fans and journalists, killing 23 people and wounding 20 others. The police suspected rivals of a producer who was wounded in the attack.

Bloodied bodies were strewn on the street outside D. Rama Naidu film studio in Hyderabad, 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) south of New Delhi, where a crowd had gathered for a party celebrating the production of a new movie.

Many of the wounded lost limbs, and seven people were in serious condition, said Ram Pratap Singh, Hyderabad's police chief. Among those hurt was the popular Indian actor Mohan Babu, who had a role in the movie.

The police said they believed the target of the bombing was Paritola Ravi, a politician and producer of the film. They initially said Mr. Ravi was seriously wounded, but later said his condition was not life-threatening.

A former guerrilla leader and a local warlord, Mr. Ravi is a state lawmaker and

member of the state's governing Telugu Desam party. He renounced guerrilla warfare about 10 years ago and was pardoned following his surrender. The police said the motive for the blast could have been personal rather than political.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bomb, which blasted a crater 6-feet wide and 2-feet deep.

Andhra Pradesh's state police chief, H. J. Dora, citing witnesses, said the blast was caused by a car bomb parked at the studio entrance and set off by remote control.

### BRIEFLY

### Mahathir Easily Triumphs In a Vote of Confidence

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's lower house of Parliament overwhelmingly approved a motion of confidence Wednesday supporting Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad and censuring the United States.

The motion was approved by a voice vote after members of two leading opposition parties walked out. Mr. Mahathir's 14-party coalition controls 168 votes in the 192-seat lower house.

The motion criticized a resolution before the U.S. Congress demanding that Mr. Mahathir either apologize for remarks critical of Jews or resign, as well as a U.S. investigation into a gas deal in Iran involving Malaysia's state oil firm, Petronas.

"We are not a puppet state controlled by any big power," the deputy prime minister, Anwar

Ibrahim, said at the end of the debate.

Lim Kit Siang, the leader of the Democratic Action Party, which walked out on the vote, said that his party opposed the U.S. resolution and the Petronas investigation but that the motion of confidence was "an overreaction." (Reuters)

### China Calls Land Mines 'Indispensable' to Defense

BEIJING — China defended its position against the global treaty banning land mines on Wednesday, saying that the weapons "play an indispensable role" in its defenses.

An editorial in the official China Daily acknowledged the civilian casualties caused "each year by land mines left from past conflicts and the growing international movement to ban them."

"However, the movement seemingly ignores

the necessity of self-protection in many countries," it said. "Land mines as an effective defensive weapon play an indispensable role for China, a developing country with a long boundary line." (AFP)

### Singapore Caning Protest

SINGAPORE — New Zealand has protested the caning sentence meted out Wednesday by a court to a former serviceman for remaining illegally in Singapore, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said through an official here.

The defendant, David Peden, 31, was sentenced to three months in jail and three strokes of the cane for having resided in the country without legal permission for more than two years. Caning is a frequent punishment in Singapore.

He also received a 12-month term, to run concurrently, for morphine use. (Reuters)

### High Court Accuses Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan was formally charged with contempt of court Wednesday in a dispute between the government and the judiciary.

The charges were leveled when Mr. Sharif, who has been in power for nine months, appeared in the Supreme Court to respond to charges that remarks he made this month showed contempt for the nation's highest legal institution.

He had said that the court acted illegally this month when it suspended a constitutional amendment that bans members of Parliament from being judges. The practice is known as "dual citizenship."

The court also charged Mr. Sharif with having said "that the filth in the form of floor-crossing which was cleansed by the Parliament has been restored by the chief justice." (Reuters)

## Taiwan Desperado Surrenders to Police

The Associated Press

TAIPEI — A slaying suspect hunted by the Taiwan police for the last six months released his last hostage Wednesday and surrendered, ending a 24-hour standoff at the home here of a South African diplomat.

The suspect, Chen Chin-hsing, freed Anne Alexander, wife of the South African defense attaché, E. G. M. Alexander, and was taken away in a police motorcade to an unidentified location.

Mrs. Alexander walked to an ambulance, apparently unhurt, and was driven to a hospital to visit her husband and a daughter, who were released earlier after they were wounded in a gun battle between Mr. Chen and the police.

Mr. Chen was wanted in the kidnapping and killing of a television star's teenage daughter and the slaying of a plastic surgeon and two nurses.

He took the family of five hostage, later explaining that he had singled out foreigners to draw attention to his demand for the release of his wife, Chang Su-chen, and brother-in-law, Chang Chih-hui. Convicted of being his accomplices, they were sentenced to 12 years and life in prison, respectively.

After the initial shootout, the police sought a negotiated solution, bringing Mr. Chen's wife to the house Wednesday morning to help mediate.

They later allowed an opposition lawmaker, Frank Hsieh, to enter. He spent two hours talking with Mr. Chen before walking out with another hostage, the Alexanders' daughter Christine.

While he was in the home, Mr. Chen spent several hours on the phone with Taiwanese television stations, calmly admitting a series of crimes.

He acknowledged taking part in the kidnapping in April of Pai Hsiao-yea, the 17-year-old daughter of a popular television entertainer, Pai Ping-ping. He denied killing the girl, however.



The wife of Chen Chin-hsing passing a baby to safety from the house in Taipei where he held a South African diplomat's family hostage.

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### Congress Party Prods Gujral

Reuters

NEW DELHI — The Congress (I) Party, which gives key support to Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's coalition, maintained pressure on the government Wednesday over a report on the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

"We will demand action against all those indicted by the report," a Congress spokesman said.

"The action should be both political and legal," said the spokesman, Vishal Gadgil.

Lawmakers of the Congress Party have called on it to withdraw support for the coalition unless the coalition expels Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, a regional party reportedly implicated by the report over alleged links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The government has blamed the Sri Lankan rebel group for Mr. Gandhi's assassination in 1991 by a suicide bomber. The winter session of Parliament was adjourned without debate over the leaked report.



EUROPE

# A Monarchy in Flux Stops to Celebrate

Elizabeth II's 50th Wedding Anniversary

By Dan Balz  
Washington Post Service

LONDON — She wears the crown, he lovingly calls her "sausage" and their marriage has lasted 50 years. Today she struggles to appear contemporary, but a biographer calls her the original people's princess. Their wedding helped to lift the spirits of a war-ravaged country and define the modern monarchy.

But as Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrate their 50th anniversary Thursday with two days of parties, concerts and services, the festivities will mark more the closing of an era than a tribute to the grandeur and glamour of the British monarchy.

Less than three months after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the royal family is still coming to terms with the demands of a modern monarchy. Changes are promised and the institution, the palace promises, will be slimmed down to suit the demands of the age. But change comes slowly, and the clashing symbols of an institution in transition abound this week.

On Wednesday night, for example, the queen, Prince Philip and invited guests were to dine at the People's Palace, a modern chrome-and-wood restaurant favored by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his "New Labour" government. On Thursday night, however, the royal couple will hold their golden anniversary ball at the magnificently restored Windsor Castle, which was heavily damaged by fire five years ago this month.

The lavish restoration cost about £35 million (\$60 million), most of it from private funds. The elaborate, green oak ceiling in the 180-foot long St. George's Hall consumed 350 oak trees and took nearly a full year to complete. Craftspeople used 500,000 gold leaves — 11,000 square feet (990 square meters) of gilding — to restore the castle's interiors. "A wonderful anniversary present," the queen called it.

The guest list is equally gilt-edged. The number of kings and queens, princes and princesses, and dukes and duchesses coming from around Europe, the Daily Telegraph reported, has "excited genealogists, who cannot recall such a gathering of royal houses."

Before the ceremonies end, the queen and the prince will be feted by the prime minister, the lord mayor of London, with a concert in Royal Festival Hall and a service at Westminster Abbey.

But this Cinderella week will have a

pumpkin-coach ending Friday, when the royal yacht Britannia steams past of London for the last time. The new government has decided that, after 44 years and more than a million nautical miles, Britannia has become a costly and expendable symbol of the old order. The ship will be decommissioned next month. There is talk that the royal train is next to go.

The royal family has accepted the decommission of Britannia stoically. Since Diana's death, the royal family has made a concerted effort to be more accessible and informal. Last week, the queen visited a homeless center and chatted on camera with some of the people living there. Last month, during a rocky trip to India and Pakistan, she praised her former daughter-in-law. According to one report, she no longer expects everyone to bow in her presence.

Prince Charles has made an image makeover of his own. Sparring southern Africa this month with his younger son, Prince Harry, he "sampled" tribal beer, paid tribute to Mandela playfully posed, along with President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, with the Spice Girls. He even chatted several times with the accompanying press corps.

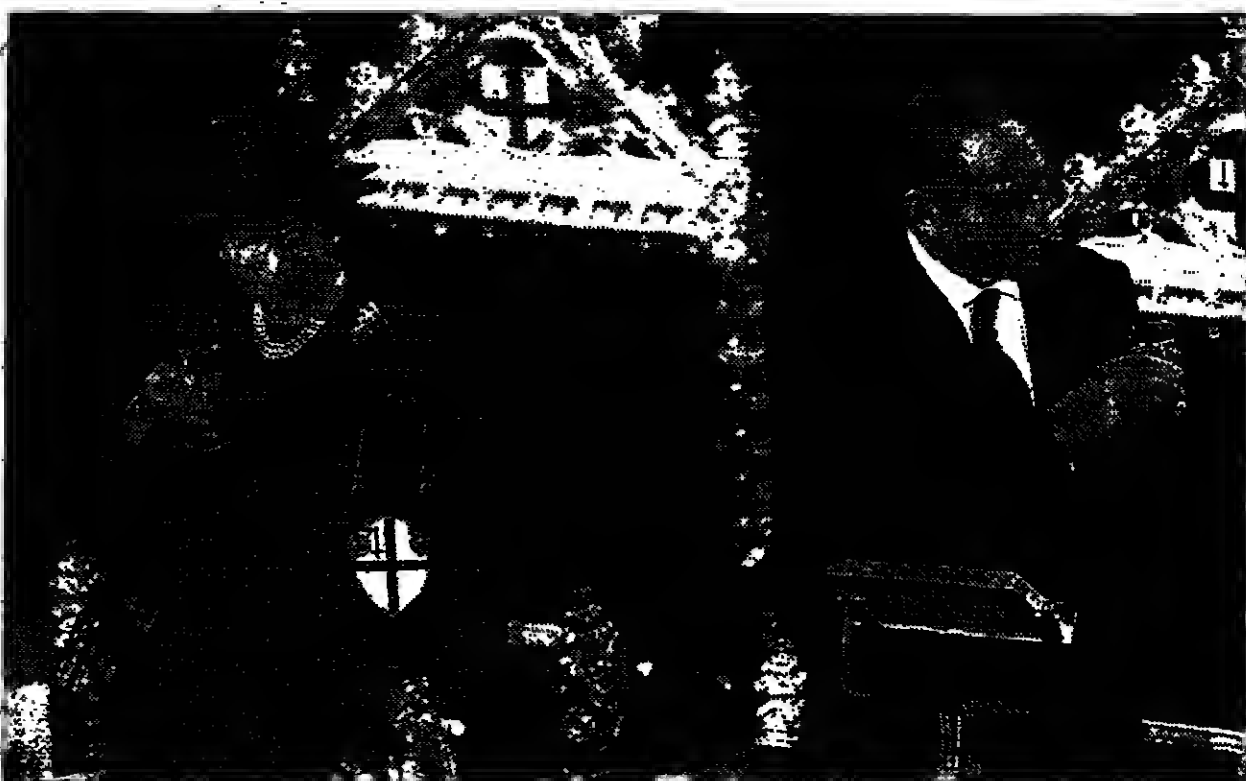
"I think there is a real sense at the moment, not only that people want the monarchy to change, but that they," the royal family, "have taken that message on board," said Ben Pimlott, author of "The Queen: A Biography of Elizabeth II."

The palace says that by next year it will have cut the cost of running the monarchy by 39 percent since the beginning of the decade, according to figures supplied to the BBC. In addition to the royal train, the palace is said to believe that, over time, it will relinquish possession of Kensington Palace.

Prince Charles's charitable work in Britain's inner cities, through the Prince's Trust that he established many years ago, suddenly puts him in better favor here in the post-Diana world, and his advisers are pleased that he is now being portrayed as a caring and loving father to Princes William and Harry.

But much of what has occurred are small gestures, curtsies to a new style. How much more the royal family is prepared to do — and how quickly they will do it — are open questions. "There is a debate going on, but there are no easy answers," said an official close to the family. "It's an institution based on a family, so it's a debate within a family."

This week, the palace made clear that certain radical changes that had been speculated upon in the days after Diana's



The queen and Prince Philip toasting their guests Wednesday at an anniversary lunch at Guildhall in London.

Britain was flat-broke from World War II and there was still food rationing when Elizabeth and Philip were married. But her father, King George VI, wanted a big wedding for his daughter, and the newly elected Labour prime minister, Clement Attlee, agreed. The wedding would help relieve, if only briefly, the war-weariness of the people.

death — the abdication by Queen Elizabeth in favor of Prince Charles, or Charles's passing the crown on to his son William — are out of the question.

"It isn't going to happen," Simon Gimson, who until recently ran the palace's policy unit, told the BBC in an interview authorized by the palace. Asked whether the queen might retire at some point, he replied, "Absolutely not."

Sarah Bradford, author of "Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen," said she believed that the royal family had decided that while they want people to believe changes are coming, they want to make clear the limits of reform. "They don't seem to have been able to get them across before," Ms. Bradford said.

If nothing else, the queen's anniversary celebration serves as testimony to a personal relationship carried through difficult times and to changing images of the monarch herself. By many accounts, Philip can be a difficult and sometimes distant person, but he has supported the queen throughout their marriage. "Cheer up, sausage," he once said to her during an interminable royal tour early in her reign. It was a nickname of affection, not derogation. The marriages of three of her four

children ended in divorce, and the fourth has not married. Five years ago, after the fire at Windsor Castle and the revelation of intimate details of Charles's and Diana's lives, she called 1992 "annus horribilis." Life has not got much easier since.

Today, the queen is sometimes seen as dour and dowdy and resistant to change. And so it is perhaps easy to forget that, at the time of her wedding, she was viewed as a beautiful young princess who had snared a dashing war hero as her prince. When she went to Washington in 1951, President Harry Truman strutted with pride as he was introduced. "When I was a little boy, I read about a fairy princess," he said, "and there she is."

The wedding between Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten came at a time when a reserved and dignified monarchy suited the sensibilities of middle England. Peter Clarke, a historian at the University of Cambridge, said the war years might have marked the peak of a "respectable but rather boring" monarchy that by now has run its course.

But the wedding introduced a new measure of style and romance into the royal family that had been missing —

and became a model for the royal weddings that would follow, including that of Charles and Diana in 1981.

Britain was flat-broke from the war and there was still food rationing when Elizabeth and Philip were married. Still, her father, King George VI, wanted a big wedding for his daughter. Some politicians found displays of extravagance offensive, but the newly elected Labour prime minister, Clement Attlee, thought otherwise. The wedding would help relieve, if only briefly, the war-weariness of the people.

Now, in looking back, the descriptions of the wedding sound strangely familiar to some of what was seen and heard here only a few months ago and lend some perspective to the demands for modernization of the monarchy.

Ben Pimlott described it this way in his biography of the queen:

"It was to be a jamboree fit for a people's princess, which would show that a Labour government knew how to give everybody a good time, even in the depths of economic adversity." And when they put the wedding dress on display in St. James's Palace, the lines of people waiting to get in and see it stretched up and down The Mall.

## 6.8% of Vote In Denmark Won by Foes Of Immigrants

Agence France-Press

COPENHAGEN — According to results made public Wednesday, a Danish far-rightist party that ran an anti-immigrant campaign made a strong showing in local elections.

With 93 percent of the ballots counted, the Danish People's Party won 6.8 percent of the votes in Tuesday's municipal and regional elections.

It fielded candidates in 142 of Denmark's 275 districts, the Interior Ministry said.

The governing Social Democrats finished first with 33.1 percent, down 1.2 percentage points from the previous local elections in 1993, the ministry said. The Danish People's Party was founded in 1995. Its support apparently came partly at the expense of another far-rightist group, the Progress Party, which fell from 3.4 percent to 1.7 percent.

The Liberal Party slipped 2.2 percentage points to 25 percent. The party that came closest to holding its previous level of support was the Conservative Party, which slipped 0.7 percentage points to 12.1 percent.

The Danish People's Party campaigned against what it depicted as a lax immigration policy that it said had led to a flood of refugees entering the country, mainly from Africa and the Middle East. Foreign nationals account for 4.5 percent of Denmark's population of 5.5 million.

Pia Kjaersgaard, the party leader, welcomed "this fantastic breakthrough" in the election. "It's only a beginning," she said, predicting the party would "go far" in the parliamentary elections that must be held by next September.

Mrs. Kjaersgaard said Wednesday during a televised political debate that "these results showed that voters have had enough of the government's passive policy on immigration and said clearly that enough is enough."

The head of the Liberal Party, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, said in the same debate. "The problem of refugees and immigrants was high on voters' minds even in elections where concerns were of a local nature."

Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said Tuesday night that the results showed his party had held firm and that there was no need for early elections as demanded by the opposition.

"The voters at the last moment thought twice and did not swell the extreme-right wave, as the polls predicted," he said.

### BRIEFLY

#### Aftershocks Rock Greek Isle

ATHENS — More than a hundred aftershocks shook Zakynthos in the Ionian Sea, shortly after a double quake rocked the Greek island, seismologists said Wednesday. George Stavrakakis, director of the Athens Observatory's seismology unit, said the aftershocks occurred Tuesday in the six hours after two quakes in the afternoon registered 6.6 and 6.0 on the open-ended Richter scale.

No serious injuries were reported from the two quakes, but they caused slight property damage on Zakynthos and in the southern and western regions of the Peloponnese, the authorities said.

Mr. Stavrakakis said that since midnight Tuesday, there had been fewer and less powerful aftershocks, "in a range between 4.4 and 4.9 on the Richter scale."

"This activity, which could continue for several weeks, follows a normal pattern of events," he said. In the last two weeks, seismologists have recorded several tremors, from 4 to 5.5 on the scale, in other Greek regions. The south of Crete, the Peloponnese, the Gulf of Corinth and the eastern Aegean Sea were all hit, but no victims or serious damage were reported. (AFP)

#### Reprieve for EU Commission

STRASBOURG — The European Parliament lifted a threat Wednesday to dismiss the EU executive for mishandling the crisis over "mad cow" disease, saying it had gone a long way toward righting past wrongs.

By a vote of 427 to 33, deputies adopted a report on the crisis by a European Parliament committee of inquiry. But they told the European Commission, the EU executive body, that it would remain under scrutiny and still had much work to do, including disciplining civil servants who had been found negligent.

The commission was accused by deputies of putting market concerns ahead of consumer health when the mad-cow threat became apparent. (Reuters)

#### New Chief for War Crimes Panel

THE HAGUE — The judges on the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia chose a former civil rights lawyer on Wednesday as president of the UN court.

Gabriele Kirk McDonald, a 55-year-old former law professor who is a federal judge in Houston, has already served four years at The Hague tribunal, which is working to bring to justice those responsible for atrocities during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Judge McDonald also headed the three-judge panel that imprisoned the Bosnian Serb war criminal Dusan Tadic for 20 years in July after a year-long trial.

She was recommended for the tribunal's top job by the departing president, Antonio Cassese, and her selection was backed by its other judges at a meeting Wednesday. Judge McDonald will serve a two-year term. (AP)

#### Hungary Sees Valid NATO Vote

BUDAPEST — The National Election Committee in Hungary said Wednesday that the overwhelming "yes" vote in a referendum on joining NATO was valid even though the turnout was slightly below 50 percent of the electorate.

The chairman of the committee, Istvan Kukorelli, announcing the final results, said the vote was valid because the 85.33 percent who approved membership represented more than 25 percent of all those eligible to participate, the Hungarian news agency MTI reported.

"The constitution states that a referendum can be considered valid if over 25 percent of the total number of eligible voters cast votes in one direction in a referendum," he said. (Reuters)

## Bonn Gets Backing On Scientology

Reuters

COLOGNE — A group of U.S. congressmen said Wednesday that religious freedom was alive and well in Germany and that they were embarrassed by recent efforts in the House of Representatives to scold Bonn on the issue.

The six congressmen, on a three-day tour of Europe, said they were relieved the House had soundly defeated a resolution criticizing Germany for discriminating against religious minority groups, particularly the Church of Scientology.

"We vote on a lot of things we should be embarrassed about," said Calvin Dooley, Democrat of California. "That never should have come up for a vote."

Germany has been embroiled in public battle with Scientology, which it does not recognize as a religion. Scientists say German authorities persecute them and their beliefs. The spat has been a minor irritant in Bonn's relations with Washington.

The House voted, 318 to 101, last week against a resolution that would have urged President Bill Clinton to express concern about Germany's treatment of religious minorities. Germany called

the accusations of religious intolerance absurd, but said it was concerned by the fact that more than 100 members of Congress had backed the measure.

"The overwhelming size of the vote should show how House members feel," said Bob Livingston, Republican of Louisiana.

The congressmen said that they had met with Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Tuesday but that the issue had not come up. They added that several members of Parliament in Bonn had asked them about the vote.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel has said he is concerned that the Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology has distorted Germany's image in the United States.

After the House vote, which attracted considerable media attention in Germany, Mr. Kinkel said he would launch a campaign to spread information about Germany's position on Scientology.

The movement has compared attempts by authorities in some German states to exclude Scientologists from public jobs and contracts with efforts by Nazi Germany to discriminate against Jews in the early 1930s.

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## INTERNATIONAL

# Egypt Demotes 21 Security Officials After Luxor Killings

By Douglas Jehl  
New York Times Service

LUXOR, Egypt — Nearly two dozen top Egyptian officials were stripped of their posts Wednesday in a further sign that security lapses may have contributed to the massacre here that killed 62 persons, 58 of them foreign tourists.

The forced transfer of General Medhat Shennawi, the security chief in Luxor, and 20 other security officials came a day after President Hosni Mubarak obtained the resignation of Interior Minister Hassan Ali, who was responsible for Egypt's internal security.

The authorities have yet to provide more than a sketchy account of the attack Monday morning, for which Islamic militants have claimed responsibility.

But the ousters of the top officials are part of a security shake-up that Egyptian officials clearly hope will help to salvage the country's reputation as a safe tourist destination.

Heard on television, Mr. Mubarak told officials during a visit to Luxor on Tuesday: "When a foreigner tells me there isn't any security to protect me, I don't know what to tell them."

In addition to General Shennawi,

who was demoted and transferred to a prison post, the Interior Ministry announced that 20 officials had been demoted and transferred in what appears to have been a wholesale housecleaning under the new national security chief, Habib Adly.

Among those replaced during Mr. Adly's first day in office were the Interior Ministry's three top deputies, officials said.

Mr. Adly, 59, previously served as an assistant interior minister for state security. He has a record of having taken a hard line against Islamic militants, who have been battling for more than five years to overthrow the government.

Witnesses have said that security around the site of the attack Monday, the 3,400-year-old Temple of Hatshepsut, was minimal at best.

Only two police guards were present, the witnesses said, when six armed men stormed the site to begin the massacre. According to the witnesses' accounts, it was not until after the assailants fled the scene that police reinforcements arrived in earnest.

The government has said that the police killed all six attackers as they tried to escape into nearby hills, but accounts by the witnesses suggested that unarmed

local residents were the first to give pursuit.

The foreign governments whose citizens bore the heaviest toll in the attack have expressed sympathy with the challenge Egypt faces from Islamic militants bent on overthrowing the military-backed, secular government.

But they have also said that Egypt, which attracted 4 million foreign visitors last year, must do a better job in guaranteeing their security. "Today, one cannot recommend to anyone that they

visit this country, which is in itself wonderful," the Swiss foreign minister, Flavio Corti, said during a visit to Cairo.

He also called on Egyptian officials to clarify exactly what happened inside the temple, in which at least 35 Swiss tourists died.

Some Swiss survivors have said that young women were raped by attackers, who sang and danced during the killing spree.

And several witnesses have said that some victims were stabbed to death and

that several corpses were mutilated.

But a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, who insisted on anonymity, strongly denied late Wednesday that any of the victims had been raped or mutilated.

Mr. Mubarak was reported by the Egyptian press to have ordered Prime Minister Kamal Ganzour to head a committee whose mission will be to draw up a "water-tight plan" to secure the safety of tourists. They spend in Egypt more than \$3 billion a year.



Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in Giza on Wednesday to see the Sphinx during her official visit to Egypt.

## LUXOR: The Pharaoh's Temple of Blood

Continued from Page 1

said Rosemarie Dousse, who was wounded in the arm and leg, in an interview with Swiss television. "A man who was very heavy fell on top of me and the lady behind me also covered me. And then they started again shooting those who were still alive, in the head."

The killers could hardly have chosen a more prominent landmark than the Hatshepsut temple, built 1,500 years before Christ to celebrate the reign of Egypt's only female pharaoh. An imposing structure of three levels, the temple sits at the base of sheer limestone cliffs.

There were conflicting reports about how the militants arrived at the temple. Some witnesses said they came in a taxi; others said they arrived on foot. Also unclear is how they were dressed. According to some witnesses, the attackers wore the black cotton uniforms of the Egyptian police. Others said they were wearing black trousers and jackets that could have been mistaken for uniforms.

Said Ahmed Ghassan, a police guard at the entrance ticket booth, said he noticed six men dressed in black file past him. When he asked for their tickets, he said, the last man whirled, pulled out a gun and replied, "This is the ticket."

The man then shot him in the elbow and leg. Mr. Ghassan, 40, said from his bed in Luxor's hospital.

He said that several guards standing with him were also shot. Some of the tourists were wounded in the initial gunfire and the militants finished them off "by cutting their throats with knives," Mr. Ghassan said.

After slaughtering several people in the main courtyard inside the gate, the killers moved up the ramp to the Middle Court, a vast open space where some tourists apparently were killed.

Others took refuge against the wall of

a ramp that leads to the third level, which is closed for restoration. The wall was pocked with bullet holes and splattered with blood.

The rear wall of the Middle Court consists of the Birth Colonnade on one side of the ramp and the Punt Colonnade on the other. Both colonnades were smeared with gore, and blood soaked the sandy floor.

As the gunmen were finishing their work, Hagag Nahas, 36, was driving his bus back toward the main entrance. About 8:30 that morning, 15 minutes before the killing began, Mr. Nahas had dropped off a group of 30 Swiss tourists at the temple, according to an official of the Isis travel company, the organizer of the tour and owner of the bus.

All but eight of the Swiss were massacred, according to the official. But Mr. Nahas did not know that anything was wrong until the militants waved down his bus at gunpoint and ordered him to "go to another place" so they could "shoot more people," he said from his hospital bed.

Mr. Nahas said he drove the killers around the area, where mud-brick villages mix with souvenir shops and ancient tombs, for about 20 minutes before he finally stopped near the access road to the Valley of the Queens, about a kilometer from the Hatshepsut temple.

As the killers tumbled out of the bus, one clubbed Mr. Nahas in the chest with the butt of his rifle.

In an exchange of gunfire with police outside the bus, one militant was shot and killed. The remaining five fled into the desert hills, with the police and villagers in pursuit.

As gunshots echoed throughout the area, tourists in the Valley of the Queens covered inside tombs for more than three hours, according to Rohyn Du Plessis, 22, of Durban, South Africa.

## IRAQ: Ministers Meet in Geneva on Iraq

Continued from Page 1

"The issue at Geneva is really going to be the future," said an American official. That was a careful way of saying that what will matter most to Mrs. Albright is the price to be paid to save face for President Saddam Hussein. The White House does not want to appear to be in any sort of negotiation with Mr. Saddam or appear to offer any inducements to him, no matter how small or obvious, to back down.

Even a sudden American and British offer to allow Baghdad to spend more of its oil money on food, medicine and "civil needs" if it comes back into compliance with UN weapons inspections was described by White House officials as a humanitarian gesture with no particular connection to the diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis.

"Iraq must let the weapons inspectors get back to their vital work of preventing Iraq from building nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and it must permit those inspections to proceed without interference or conditions," Mrs. Albright said in Cairo. She then repeated the paragraph for emphasis.

"As President Clinton has said, Iraq must not be allowed to threaten the world through the development of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. No outcome short of that is acceptable."

### UN Inspector Makes a Case

Barbara Crossette of The New York Times reported from the United Nations: The head of the UN inspection team trying to disarm Iraq went to the Security Council on Thursday armed with photographs and documents and accompanied by a group of scientists to make the point that Baghdad continues to pose a serious threat in almost every area of weapons development.

The presentation by Richard Butler, executive chairman of the UN Special Commission, appeared intended to harden the resolve of the council hours before the foreign ministers of major member nations met in Geneva.

While council members made an effort to put a united face on their resolve to have Mr. Saddam back down and allow inspection teams to return on the commission's terms, with no stipulations as to nationality, there still are differences not far below the surface here.

Sergei Lavrov, the Russian representative, put the emphasis on speeding up the disarmament process, saying that all diplomatic efforts, including those of Russia, were aimed at allowing the inspectors to "resume unconditionally and in full" their activities in Iraq.

But he added that the inspections also needed to be accelerated so that Security Council conditions could be met and sanctions lifted.

## KOREA: Seoul Rejects Suggestions It Needs Help From the IMF

Continued from Page 1

official at the Japanese Finance Ministry said the government was unaware of any request for help and could not comment.

Meanwhile, Kim Dae Jung, the opposition presidential candidate, seized on the issue, saying that if he was elected, he would seriously consider asking the IMF for help, the International Herald Tribune reported from Seoul.

[Mr. Kim, ahead in the polls against a fragmented governing party, said South Korea had to open up "to the outside in terms of financial management" to escape economic disaster.]

Many analysts were hoping for an IMF bailout to restore investor confidence. The government has said it has \$30.5 billion in foreign currency reserves, but has not said how much it used in defending the won. Many analysts said they thought the level was dangerously low.

"Nobody is going to be interested in buying government bonds until they see

a credible reform package come out, plus a credible sum of money to tide Korea over its short term foreign currency liabilities problem," said Daniel Lian, head of Asian markets research for ANZ Investment Bank, in Singapore. Mr. Lian estimated that about \$75 billion in foreign currency loans will come due by the end of the year.

South Korea's financial stabilization package was an effort to calm markets that have become increasingly jittery, particularly since the central bank stopped defending the won on Monday.

Since then, the won has tumbled so quickly that the country's foreign exchange market can stay open only a short time each morning before hitting the daily limit that the won is allowed to fall.

Seoul said Wednesday that it will widen the band that the won can trade in to 10 percent either way, from 2.25 percent up or down. Traders said there was a good chance it would hit the lower limit of the wider band on Thursday.

The falling won puts new pressure on

neighboring currencies. Because Taiwan and Japan compete with South Korea on exports, a rapid fall of the won — which would make South Korean exports cheaper — would force down the currencies of Taiwan and Japan.

### Program to Buy Up Bad Loans

Don Kirk, an IHT special correspondent, reported from Seoul:

The government has unveiled an emergency rescue program that authorizes up to \$10 billion in government funds to "purchase bad loans from banks," nearly tripling the amount already available.

The government is planning to write off 50 percent of all bad loans in this fashion by the end of the year and hopes to eliminate all bad loans within one or two years, the announcement said.

The program makes clear the government will force a number of institutions to close by promoting the merger of weak financial institutions while protecting depositors through a newly formed Consolidated Deposit Insurance Corp.

## JOBS: EU States Differ on Summit Goals

Continued from Page 1

accept Germany's insistence on monetary discipline in the future European single currency unless they see corresponding efforts to improve the lives of ordinary people.

Manuel Pimentel Siles, the secretary for employment in Spain, said his country opposed setting targets for reducing unemployment at the summit meeting. Spain, he said in an interview, is fighting a vastly higher battle with much more limited means than its wealthier neighbors in the 15-nation European Union.

The European Commission has put forward a series of guidelines for the summit, including improving labor-market flexibility, increasing the emphasis on training and reducing taxes on labor. It specifically wants governments to ensure that anyone who is out of work for a year — or a young person without a job for six months — gets guaranteed work experience or training.

The commission argues that in a rising economy, the EU could create 12 million jobs in five years to achieve the 7 percent unemployment target. But Jacques Santer, the commission president, said there had been some misunderstanding

over the figures. He said it was not intended that all countries would come down to the proposed average level.

For Spain, a 7 percent unemployment rate would be something of a miracle. It has been battling runaway unemployment, which has climbed to rates of 25 percent or more, since the beginning of the 1980s. Although Labor Ministry figures for Spanish unemployment are much lower — 12.7 percent in September — the national statistics institute's figure of 20.9 percent is considered more reliable because the Labor Ministry only counts people actually registering for benefits.

Mr. Pimentel said he hoped the Luxembourg summit meeting would focus more on job creation, because in this area the government has been performing well. The government, which declared 1997 the "year of employment," succeeded in getting both employers and unions to agree to a labor law that restricts the country's generous system of payoffs for layoffs.

Workers who were holding jobs when the law was introduced this year continue jobs in the case of dismissal, to 45 days' pay for each year worked, up to a maximum of 42 months' pay. Workers hired after the law was changed have the right to 33 days' pay for each year worked, up to 24 months' pay.

The change has had a dramatic impact on the number of new permanent job contracts, from virtually none before to more than 150,000 in October, according to the state's statistical service.

Spain views the proposed European single currency, the euro, as the EU's best hope for the creation of stable economies and low inflation that will allow jobs to flourish. At the summit meeting, it will advocate more encouragement for small and medium-sized enterprises, allowing them access to European Investment Bank funds; reducing non-salary labor costs; rethinking ideas about part-time work, and encouraging lifelong learning and training.

Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg, who will be chairman of the jobs meeting, said he hoped it would adopt a series of goals and the kind of "multilateral surveillance and convergence" that underpins the move toward the single currency. But other than a reallocation of some existing resources, there was little likelihood of extra funds being devoted to the fight against unemployment. Germany, for one, is against increasing the EU's costs.

are sick. If you want treatment in China, or in Beijing, it's absolutely impossible."

They added, according to Mr. Wei, "You can't be let out into society, so if you want medical treatment, you only have this one opportunity."

So "to cure myself," he said, "there's nothing else I can do. Going to America is better than prison, of course. But it would be best to stay in China. Naturally, I hope to return."

Mr. Wei's sister, Wei Shanshan, 42, said that for the past few months, Mr. Wei had been suffering chronic neck and back pain exacerbated by allergic re-

## RUSSIA: Reformer Loses Post

Continued from Page 1

ner in some of the latest privatization sell-offs of government companies. They have seriously undermined the claims of Mr. Chubais and Mr. Nemtsov that they were creating "new rules" with more competition and openness in the sell-off of government assets.

Mr. Chubais admitted receiving the money only after it was disclosed by a muckraking journalist whose paper is supported by another banker. The tycoons have been fighting one another, and Mr. Chubais, since a July auction of Svyazinvest, the telephone holding company, unexpectedly went to Uneximbank.

Although Mr. Chubais hastily arranged to have most of the book contract money donated to a foundation headed by former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, it has not dampened the controversy. Mr. Chubais offered his resignation last weekend but Mr. Yeltsin refused to accept it, instead dismissing his immediate subordinates.

The reports about the book payments have been especially damaging to Mr. Chubais, who has in the past often survived attacks from opponents such as the Communists and nationalists. This time, he has confessed to friends that he brought more trouble on himself than his opponents ever did, according to one source.

Communist leaders at first threatened to stop work on the 1998 budget until Mr. Chubais was sacked. But, as in past confrontations with the Kremlin, they quickly backed down Wednesday and agreed to keep working on the fiscal plan even if Mr. Chubais remains.

Mr. Chubais and Mr. Nemtsov had taken the finance and energy portfolios because in the past these sectoral ministries had often become beholden to outside interests.

## Wei Chose Exile Out of Fear He Would Die in Prison

By Lena H. Sun  
Washington Post Service

DETROIT — The youngest sister of China's most prominent dissident, Wei Jingsheng, says her brother agreed to be released from a Chinese prison on medical parole after concluding that he probably could not survive his lengthy term because of his health, beatings by other prisoners and constant surveillance.

Mr. Wei, 47, has been in fair but stable condition at Henry Ford Hospital here since he arrived Sunday after he was suddenly freed from a 14-year sentence.

Mr. Wei had long resisted going into exile because he feared that losing direct contact with the Chinese people would undermine his influence. He has spent all but six months in jail or labor camps since 1979.

In an interview with Newsweek magazine, conducted during his 13-hour flight to the United States on Sunday and released Wednesday, Mr. Wei was asked why, after resisting exile for years, he was willing to leave China.

"I've never wanted to leave," he responded, "and I still don't now." He said Chinese authorities had told him: "You

are sick. If you want treatment in China, or in Beijing, it's absolutely impossible."

They added, according to Mr. Wei, "You can't be let out into society, so if you want medical treatment, you only have this one opportunity."

So "to cure myself," he said, "there's nothing else I can do. Going to America is better than prison, of course. But it would be best to stay in China. Naturally, I hope to return."

Mr. Wei's sister, Wei Shanshan, 42, said that for the past few months, Mr. Wei had been suffering chronic neck and back pain exacerbated by allergic re-

actions to pain medication. He said that six other inmates had beat him frequently and that he had been held in a cell, with windows on two sides and with glass walls, where the light was always on and that he was constantly being watched.

"All these things were driving him to the point where he felt his life was threatened," Miss Wei said at a news conference.

"Although it was not his first choice to leave China, as a member of his family, I am so thrilled to see him leave the Chinese prison alive," she said.

## CHINA: It's Still 'Time for Silence,' Dissident in Beijing Says, Seeing No Policy Change

Continued from Page 1

spend their time on other things."

When a change in the political atmosphere may come, he added, is as hard to predict as week-to-week political developments in any country.

Mr. Wei, 47, was the best-known of China's dissidents because of his writing and his unwillingness to bend to pressure from the authorities during his incarceration, which spanned more than 18 years with only a brief respite.

The ranks of Chinese dissidents overseas are splintered, and they are largely

unheard in China. Some are refugees from the student-led movement in 1989, like Shen Tong and Chai Ling, who experienced only a few months of political activity within China followed by escape and then exile in the United States.

Mr. Wei's case more closely resembles that of Wang Jintao, a longtime political activist who was jailed from 1989 until 1994, when he was released shortly before the U.S. Congress voted on whether to renew most-favored-nation trading status for China. The official reason Mr. Wang was sent to the United States was also medical treatment.

A dilemma faced by Mr. Wang and Mr. Wei is that going overseas robs them of the moral stature that comes with bearing the hardship of being a political critic within China.

It is the same dilemma that could face Wang Dan, 28, a former student leader who is the best-known among China's remaining political prisoners. He said in the past that he would resist going overseas, though his mother has said more recently that he would consider it if it were necessary for medical reasons.

Asked Tuesday whether Wang Dan might also be released on medical pa-

role, Shen Guofang, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, answered elliptically. "There have been such cases in the past, and there will continue to be such cases in the future."

Human rights activists in the United States, while welcoming Mr. Wei's release, have asserted that it does not affect the overall human rights situation within China.

"It is a disgrace that the Chinese government holds its own citizens hostage to international politics," said Xiao Qiang, executive director of Human Rights in China.

## EUROPE: Political Battle Ahead for Euro

Continued from Page 1

freer markets, and the other, a Europe that continues its postwar tradition of heavy state intervention. Other positions occupy a middle ground.

"What we are about to see," said Steven Englander, chief economist at the Paris office of Smith Barney, "is a battle for the soul of the European monetary system, and inside Europe there are some very different visions."

"The debate is open," said Norbert Walter, chief economist of Deutsche Bank. "The Germans argue like the high priests of free-market economics, but they act like interventionists. The British Labour Party acts like the real free-market champions. And the reality is that neither France nor Germany will be free-market economies for some time to come."

Mr. Walter said Europe's proclivity toward lowest-common-denominator compromise could mean that "it will all be very middle of the road, between the free market and interventionism, and the consequence is that we will therefore waste some of our growth potential after the launch of the single currency."

These are among the issues that symbolize the culture clash and will most likely prove divisive in coming months.

The surprise decision by Paris to nominate Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the Bank of France, to be head of the European Central Bank, has sparked controversy because most other countries were backing Wim Duisenberg, the Dutch president of the central bank's forerunner, the European Monetary Institute.

The growing discussion of whether interest rates in the euro area will be closer to German rates, now 3.2 percent, or Italian rates, now 6.25 percent. Economists see the issue as another way European economic policy may become politicized.

The role and the membership of the so-called Euro-X council, which would coordinate economic policies among those nations launching the euro. Some fear this French-inspired idea, together with the nomination of Mr. Trichet, could result in too much political influence over the central bank's actions.

The clash over how to cure Europe's jobs crisis — between the Anglo-Saxon approach of making labor markets more flexible while reducing taxes and employer contributions, and the more corporatist inclination toward state funding

of job creation and such interventionist laws as mandating a 35-hour workweek.

Top Bundesbank officials have harshly criticized the flap over who will run the European Central Bank, which is supposed to be decided by May, as potentially damaging to the euro's credibility. Helmut Hesse of the German central bank's council criticized this week the French decision to publicly back Mr. Trichet, saying, "It's not the names, it's the discussion itself which is bad."

"If they don't settle the conflict quickly," said Rita Schumacher, an economist at Nikko Europe, "the risk is that the central bank will not be able to establish market confidence in a short space of time."

The controversy also raises fears that interest rate policy could become politically influenced, even though politicians deny this will happen.

The tendency of European politicians to express opinions about interest rates, which in theory is the sole responsibility of central bankers, was apparent Wednesday, when Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French finance minister, told a news conference here that "the interest rate set for the euro will not be a mere average — it will be based on the level of the strongest currencies, which have the lowest interest rates."

Mr. Strauss-Kahn stressed that he was not offering "a political indication."

Likewise, the debates over the Euro-X council of finance ministers has already unnerved Britain, Sweden and Denmark, which will not join the euro from the outset and fear being excluded.

"The Euro-X council," said Carl Weinberg, head of High Frequency Economics in New York, "is supposed to be an instrument aimed at trying to help guide monetary policy. But the role of the Euro-X council will be to second-guess the European Central Bank, and the risk is that they will dispense advice liberally and undermine the bank. And they may agree to things like waivers of the stability pact on deficit targets for some countries that otherwise might not be granted."

Some observers say they expect the biggest clash between differing views of Europe's economic future to be papered over at the jobs conference this week.

Mr. Walter said he was troubled that the prime minister of Luxembourg, Jean-Claude Juncker, who will lead the meeting, "is already using interventionist language and speaking of the need for guidance from governments."







## EDITORIALS/OPINION

# Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

## Massacre on the Nile

The five-year Islamist revolt against the secular state in Egypt, one of the Middle East's most influential and Western-oriented countries, has produced an awful tragedy. Six members of the Islamic Group attacked foreigners visiting fabled Luxor. Apologists say they meant to take hostages to exchange for an Egyptian cleric imprisoned in New York State in a failed terrorist conspiracy. Whatever they intended matters not at all and is obscure to ponder as an "explanation" of what occurred: Fifty-eight tourists and four Egyptians were ruthlessly shot and hacked to death, and the six died, too.

Iran, a patron of terrorists, and leaders of these groups in Gaza and Lebanon condemned the slaughter, not on principle but, expediently, as a distraction from the "anti-Zionist" cause. But of course all political causes feeding off terrorism are embarrassed.

Islamic militants assassinated then President Anwar Sadat in 1981 for

making peace with Israel, but it took 10 years for the movement to become a threat to the successor regime of Hosni Mubarak. The insurgents have killed a thousand people.

Picking up the currents that carry Islamist movements in the Muslim world, they seek to change the government by force and install a state ruled by their version of Islamic law. Their targets have included the official security forces, the ancient sites that make tourism a crucial \$3 billion industry, and Egypt's Coptic Christian community.

President Mubarak has had good reason to crack down. Until this latest incident, moreover, he could claim some success. He needs now to devise a strategy, working with avowedly nonviolent Muslim groups, that will isolate the terrorists, politically as well as operationally, and afford him a better chance to deter and defend against their atrocities.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

## Chubais Should Go

Anatoli Chubais is both the agent and the enemy of Russian reform. Without his wily advice and determination to shed communist economic, Boris Yeltsin might not have brought Russia so far along the road to democracy and free markets. But Mr. Chubais, Mr. Yeltsin's top economic and political adviser, has also condoned unseemly dealings between the Kremlin and Russian businessmen. Even by the raw standards of Russian politics, he has now disgraced himself and ought to vacate his post as first deputy prime minister.

The immediate problem is a book advance of dubious origin that Mr. Chubais foolishly accepted. The \$90,000 payment, part of a \$450,000 deal that he shared with four of his aides, came from a publishing company owned by a bank that recently won the potentially lucrative right to buy a sizable chunk of Svyazinvest, Russia's large state-owned telecommunications company.

No matter how fairly the transaction may have been handled — Oneksimbank, the buyer, actually submitted the highest bid for the company — the book deal amounts to an improper thank-you from the bank.

Mr. Yeltsin dismissed the aides last

week, but so far has declined to let Mr. Chubais go. Were this his first misjudgment, Mr. Chubais might be forgiven if he conceded error and returned the book fee. But this episode fits a pattern. Last year, when he was temporarily running a private think tank called Civil Accord but was already assisting Mr. Yeltsin's campaign, the think tank received a \$3 million interest-free loan from a bank that had profited from government privatization deals.

Mr. Chubais has not been shy about using favoritism as the lubricant of reform. Under his direction, valuable state properties were sold off for a pittance to a small circle of businessmen and bankers. Many of the same men then financed Mr. Yeltsin's election campaign last year and until recently wielded great influence in the Kremlin.

Russian politics is not for the faint-hearted, and Mr. Chubais has often served a larger interest with his manipulations. But reform has progressed far enough in Russia that it need not be advanced at every turn by unethical deals. As difficult as it may be for Mr. Yeltsin to part company with such a valued aide, he should discharge Mr. Chubais before the cause of reform is further tarnished.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

## Ease Up on Cuba

A drive is on for legislation to drop the part of the general American embargo of Cuba that restricts sales of food, medicine and medical equipment. The project is way overdue. Members of both parties support the bills introduced in both House and Senate; congressional action should pick up in the next session. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is aboard. So are humanitarian and medical groups. So are groups representing much of the Cuban-American emigration, up to now a fairly unified bulk of a hard line on Fidel Castro.

The American ban on food and medicine was enacted in the 1960s in a period of rage over Cuba and the Soviet tie. The ending of the Cold War shifted Washington's focus to Fidel Castro's internal rule, and the food-medicine embargo stayed on. It is a sordid tactic. To convert food and medicine — intended to nourish and to heal — into a political weapon tramples on American humanitarian tradition. Children, women and the elderly bear the principal impact. What little business there is to do with poor and mismanaged Cuba is diminished.

The strategy behind the embargo — to drive the Cuban people to revolt and the regime to change or collapse — leaves Fidel Castro with a powerful anti-American card. The contrast with

China, a far larger, more challenging Communist country and one with which the United States conducts major commerce, is painful. These restrictions, unilaterally imposed, separate Americans from their closest allies.

The Clinton administration makes a particular, strained case for the embargo on food and medicine. It says that these items can be sold with licenses and are sent in large numbers by private American citizens, and, anyway, the Cuban dictator could shop elsewhere if he chose; hence, any shortages are his responsibility.

That amounts to justifying the embargo on the basis that its loopholes adequately subvert it. This is not persuasive. Such trade as there is in food and medicine faces formidable political, bureaucratic and financial obstacles. The embargo on these items, although not total, takes a toll.

The other aspects of the embargo remain in place. Many challenge their worth and efficacy, but many also still see them as anti-Castro leverage. It is a charged debate that has been going on for nearly 40 years. Food and medicine, in any event, are different. They go to real human beings. There cannot be many Americans left who are vindictive enough to choke the flow of these necessities to needy Cubans.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

## Other Comment

### What to Do After Luxor

The latest terrorist attack should force the Egyptian government to rethink its ambiguous policy. It has cracked down hard on militant fundamentalist groups, jailing and executing many of their activists. (The Luxor attack may be primarily a response to the campaign of repression.) But it has tried to divide the Islamist movement through various concessions, including the appointment of some fundamentalists as judges, leading to reactionary verdicts that have tarnished

Egypt's image abroad. Such halfhearted concessions and contradictory policies send the wrong message.

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).

The only sane voice I heard was from a Manchester woman in a Luxor hotel. She insisted her holiday would continue, because to pull out would "double the misery this tragedy has caused the Egyptians we have met."

Would that someone in authority had said the same.

—Simon Jenkins, commenting in The Times (London).

## Make This Evidence of Saddam's Poison Public

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Nearly 18 months ago, UN weapons inspectors in Iraq discovered videotapes showing stomach-turning scenes of the testing of biological weapons on donkeys, sheep and dogs at the Hakam laboratory in Baghdad. The tapes showing the animals dying in agony are so gruesome that they were not released publicly or disseminated widely within the United Nations. They should have been.

The existence of the tapes, as well as of the poison gas sprays they reportedly show over the animals' stalls and cages, provides graphic evidence of the nature of the man and the regime the world confronts in Saddam Hussein and Iraq. What kind of regime videotapes such horror and then places the tape in archives? The kind that ordered the massacre of Kurdish civilians and filmed that killing on a massive scale in 1987. The kind that has systematically taped the show trials and grisly executions of those who have fallen afoul of Saddam Hussein since he and his murderous colleagues came to power in 1968.

There is in Iraq, some UN inspectors and Iraqi dissidents believe, extensive documentary evidence of biological and chemical experimentation on human prisoners by the Iraqi regime. The New York Times suggested plausibly last week that the Iraqis forced an end to UN inspections on Oct. 29, by banning

the team's American members, to avoid discovery of that evidence.

Few if any other rogue regimes would permit such evidence to be recorded and kept. But the nature of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship requires the archiving of atrocity.

He periodically shows tapes of the brutality with which he treats enemies on Iraqi television, to terrorize his

**Containment of Saddam Hussein was a policy that was bound to be overtaken by events.**

people. Moreover, his system requires filmed records to show that the dictator's savage orders have been carried out as he directed. He trusts no one, which is one key to his survival.

Saddam Hussein is no simple psychopath. He is, as former CIA Director R. James Woolsey recalled on television this week, "a professional killer." That is no metaphor. Saddam Hussein's occupation before going into

government was that of hit man. In the art of murder and extermination, he leaves nothing to chance.

Release of the animal testing tapes by the United Nations would have reminded the world of that reality. But political sensitivities as well as emotional ones come into play at this point. What is the point of stirring up public outrage and revulsion if you are not prepared to remove the cause of it?

Publicizing the experiments using biological agents might have brought immediate and justifiable comparisons between the Saddam regime and Germany's Nazis, and turned public opinion toward demands for dramatic action. Disclosure of Serbian concentration camps and mass rape and killing in Bosnia had just that effect in 1992.

But until Saddam Hussein put Bill Clinton on the spot by ousting the American inspectors, Washington was content to proclaim its "containment" of Iraq a triumph.

Containment resembled what the world would have looked like in 1940 if the Roosevelt administration had pushed the German army out of France, taken away most but not all of Germany's V-2 rockets, and left Adolf Hitler in place to do what he liked to those who lived in Germany.

Containment was a policy that was bound to be overtaken by events, and

the swift transformation of Iraq in U.S. official statements from a nonproblem to the world's most urgent danger proves that this has now happened.

Three weeks ago, Saddam Hussein and Iraq were routinely described by U.S. official statements as being tightly contained in a box of American making. This week President Clinton said Iraq presents a threat to "the safety of the children of the world" that must be dealt with urgently.

That transformation raises a fundamental question for Americans to put to their government: Were you fooling us then, or are you fooling us now?

It is not an idle question. Mr. Clinton must quickly close the gap between the vivid dangers to global stability he is describing and the still muted methods he is pursuing to combat them.

The president has sensibly kept his diplomatic and military options open. But he cannot go on very long having it both ways, publicly suggesting that he suddenly sees the gruesome and dangerous nature of the Iraqi threat, while he keeps the door open for a disguised diplomatic deal that will grant Saddam Hussein new legitimacy.

The United Nations and the United States can no longer afford the luxury of looking away from the evidence that Saddam's regime itself collects.

The Washington Post.

## Only Aggressive Inspection Can Block Iraq's Nuclear Ambition

By Gary Milhollin

WASHINGTON — While the United States, Russia and other countries search for diplomatic solutions to the crisis in Iraq, the risk grows that the weapons inspectors will never again be able to do their jobs effectively.

On Tuesday, for example, Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian foreign minister, proposed that in return for allowing the inspectors to go back to work, their efforts would have to be brought to a quick conclusion.

If the weapons inspections are at all compromised, however, the world could face the prospect of an Iraqi atomic bomb in three to five years.

Ever since the Gulf War, Iraq's nuclear weapon team has been busy designing a bomb. The latest blueprint, according to United Nations inspectors, is of a sphere measuring 32 to 35 inches (81 to 89 centimeters) in diameter, with

32 detonators. The bomb would weigh less than a ton and fit on a Scud missile, the weapon Saddam used in the war to hit Israel and kill American troops.

Iraq has already successfully tested the bomb, using a "dummy" non-nuclear core. To complete it, Iraq needs only nuclear fuel, and the latest design requires a mere 35 pounds (16 kilograms) of highly enriched uranium.

Inspectors believe that they have destroyed almost all the equipment needed to produce such uranium, but the Iraqis know how to build or import what they need.

Scientists have made great strides in developing centrifuges which can convert natural uranium to nuclear weapon grade. A few thousand of these centrifuges can pro-

duce enough high-grade uranium to fuel a few bombs.

Easily hidden inside an underground garage, these centrifuges would be invisible to U-2 spy planes monitoring weapons development. Only inspectors on the ground have any hope of finding them.

Even in ideal conditions, putting a complete stop to weapons research is impossible; inspectors cannot arrest scientists or read their minds. But inspectors can detect the special manufacturing needed to create fuel for nuclear weapons.

Since inspectors have been in Iraq, they have sampled soil, air and water, "swiping" surfaces to detect suspect atomic elements, and flying helicopters at low altitudes to sniff out undeclared nuclear activity.

All this work gave inspectors a good chance of detecting any bombs under construction. So long as short-notice inspections were allowed, there was a good chance, too, of seizing and destroying any and all manufacturing equipment before it could be moved.

But if inspections do not resume, or are watered down, the Iraqis can reconstitute their efforts to build a nuclear bomb. In fact, they have already moved important equipment outside the range of monitoring cameras.

Even if the inspection teams were to return to Iraq next week, they would have to retrieve hundreds of pieces of monitored equipment and then restart the accounting process.

If Iraq resumes its weapons production, it will sink the international efforts to stop arms proliferation.

Despite these dangers, France and Russia have tried to rule out military action and to

broker a compromise. Indeed, France, in its eagerness to placate Saddam, has proposed to close the books on new inspections and to rely mainly on monitoring the biological, chemical and nuclear weapons that have already been found.

But keeping track of what has already been found would not amount to a serious inspection effort — it would be "faking it," in the words of one inspector. It would surrender all hope of finding the secret manufacturing operations — nuclear, chemical and biological — that remain the greatest threat posed by Iraq.

There is no substitute for aggressive long-term inspections. The United States must ensure that they continue.

The writer directs the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control. He contributed this to The New York Times.

## A World Slump? Not Certain but Not to Be Ruled Out

By Robert J. Samuelson

WASHINGTON — "Will the world slump?" asks a recent issue of The Economist. It is a good question without a good answer.

All that can be said is that the economic crisis that began quietly in Thailand in July has spread to much of Asia and even moved on to Brazil and even Russia. Will it snowball into a broader economic downturn that would drag much of the world, including the United States, with it?

The prevailing view is "no." Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress last week that Asia's problems, although serious, would not trigger a U.S. recession. The Economist also doubts a global slump.

But optimism needs to be tempered, because the optimists have so far been wrong. The crisis is already worse than they expected, and plenty could still go wrong. Banking crises across Asia are a possibility. Another bad omen: the decision of the Mercosur trading bloc (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) to raise tariffs by 25 percent. That could signal a protectionist spiral that would depress world trade.

The best that can be expected is that the crisis harms only a handful of countries. For them, economic growth drops sharply. Consider new estimates from Nariman Behravesh, chief global forecaster for Standard & Poor's DRI. Since late October he has reduced Japan's expected 1998 growth from 2.7 to 0.7 percent, Thailand's from 4.8 percent to minus 0.7, Indonesia's from 6.3 to 2.2, and Brazil's from 4.4 to 1.8.

Japan stumbles because its exports to Asia falter. And other countries are overextended. In the 1990s these countries have received massive foreign investment. Too much money

flowed too quickly. First, foreign capital (mostly dollars) was converted into local currencies. Bad loans were made, bad projects were financed. Next, local consumers and companies converted some local currency back into foreign exchange to buy imports. Trade deficits swelled.

Now the boom is over. Countries must curb trade deficits because they no longer receive the foreign capital needed to gorge on imports. Interest rates go up to slow spending. Countries let their currencies depreciate, which makes imports more expensive.

Yet Mr. Behravesh does not expect the world economy to slump. He has cut his 1998 forecast for global growth only slightly, from 2.9 percent to 2.5. The United States and Europe continue to expand. So do most developed countries.

The Japanese public turns instinctively to the government when the going gets rough. Trying to explain that the state no longer has all the answers to the problems that plague the economy is a hard task.

Japanese no longer have optimistic dreams or visions to sustain them into the next century. So they are even more concerned than in the past that removing the bureaucratic cocoon surrounding many aspects of life will leave them vulnerable to unpleasant market forces.

The promised Big Bang will probably be an anticlimax. The Japanese government may profess to be serious about deregulation, but industrialists who face increased competition and banks that do not want to face the consequences of bad loans and mismanagement expect the state to step in and shore up the present system.

Japan in the late 1990s is a chastened nation. It knows that its golden age is behind it and that prospects for economic growth to support an aging population are limited.

Only a determined and united cabinet could impose real reform. Since political leadership is weak and likely to remain so, cosmetic change is the best that can be hoped for.

His future may be on the line. He is seen as beleaguered, in contrast to his self-confidence in the summer when he secured a second term as president of his party and thus as prime minister. The party is balking at the politically sensitive areas of deregulation and the prospect of the job losses that would result.

Many more financial institutions appear to be sitting on huge piles of bad debts incurred when the stock market was seen as a moneymaking game and the only way the economy could go was up into the stratosphere. The collapse of real

estate prices has resulted in forced sales with heavy losses.

Mr. Hashimoto is caught between his past promises to reform and kick-start the highly regulated financial sector, and political pressures to eat his words by shoring up the more viable parts of the system to prevent public panic at the possible consequences of more banks going under.

The irony is that efforts to prevent more banking crises must lead to continued bureaucratic intervention and supervision. The Ministry of Finance is unpopular, and Mr. Hashimoto's coalition partners want to dismantle its powers. Yet the possibility of further crashes may give a new lease on life to the financial bureaucrats.

The Liberal Democratic Party would earn little applause by providing unsecured government loans to troubled banks, although some in the party favor such a course. It would negate the government's pledge to cut the national debt and press ahead with deregulation.

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OPINION/LETTERS

# A Great Cheer in 1947 Echoes Feebly Today

By Denis Judd

LONDON — Fifty years ago the wedding of the youthful and refreshingly naive Princess Elizabeth to the dashing and suave naval lieutenant Philip Mountbatten unleashed a flood of worldwide interest and publicity. The war was barely two years over, and with Britain struggling with austerity and reconstruction, Winston Churchill spoke for many when he described the royal wedding as "a flash of color on the hard road we have to travel."

The ceremonial splendor of the occasion was a cheering reminder of prewar pomp and power. The public seemed willing to believe that the "fairy tale" match would further consolidate the position of the House of Windsor at the heart of the new Britain being created by Clement Attlee's great reforming Labour government.

Half a century later, very few of the hopes and illusions so eagerly cherished at the time are intact, or indeed recognizable. The royal marriage has, of course, survived, and that is at least a cause for modest celebration.

Whether it has been an unblemished love match throughout is more doubtful. There have been rumors of rifts, speculation over Prince Philip and other women, and note taken of separate trips, interests and bedrooms. Few realistic observers see them as a close couple.

Despite Queen Elizabeth's constitutional and ceremonial superiority, her husband's capacity to browbeat and control has not been confined to his children. One of the Queen's recent biographers quotes an eyewitness account of Prince Philip's threat to put his wife out of the car if she once more voiced her fears that he was driving too fast. A friend, however, explained how their relationship worked: "Nothing makes a woman less happy than being able to get away with everything ... Prince Philip is tough, which is why she loves him."

More perplexing and perhaps more serious is the palpable evidence that none of the four offspring of the marriage presents a reassuring picture of a fully rounded, calmly coping and deeply fulfilled individual — though Princess Anne may now come closest to hitting the target.

The first marriages of the three older children all failed: Prince Charles's spectacularly, Princess Anne's predictably and Prince Andrew's almost comically.

The royal siblings, moreover, have more than their fair share of nervous twitches and inadequacies of deportment. Throw in a few of the close relations, especially the more gin-sodden and haughty ones, and the picture of a largely dysfunctional royal family is plain for all to see.

The reasons for this do not, of course, derive solely from the parenting carried out by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is worth noting that Prince Philip's parents separated when he was a boy and that he was effectively



brought up by his Mountbatten relatives, of whom Lord Louis, the last viceroy of India, was easily the most influential. The Queen's father, King George VI, endured a cold mothering and a tyrannical fathering.

A more charitable explanation for the mess might be that having pretended for so long that they were models of wholesome family life, the royals have now come to their senses and have made a fresh bid for public sympathy and support on the grounds that they are, in fact, just like the rest of us, although considerably richer and more oenoworthy. But this is too subtle for the House of Windsor.

What we are oow witnessing is nothing less than the destruction of the mystery of the monarchy

through chronic overexposure, compounded by unprecedented media intrusiveness. Our ancestors understood the need to ration public and private monarchical display in order to sustain the magic. A century ago, the British pioneer socialist Keir Hardie early observed, "Royalty to be a success should keep off the streets."

# Back to the Early '80s With El Niño? Help!

By Hal Dresner

ASHLAND, Oregon — Like everyone else, I'm worried about El Niño. I, too, recall the terrible storms, floods and droughts of 1982 and 1983.

But do you remember what else that stretch of warmer ocean temperatures brought us? I'm talking about the really strange, frightening occurrences for which there is no rational explanation.

For instance, the last time the ocean got this hot, people started wearing baseball caps backward. Not only misguided teenagers; I mean folks as sane as we are. That's the power of a world-class Niño.

And what else can explain break dancing, Valley Girl-speak, "Rocky III," women wearing shoulder pads? Claus von Bulow and John DeLorean? In world affairs, there was the nuttiness of Britain and Argentina warring over the Falkland Islands. Nothing as noble as our 20-minute invasion of small but shifty Grenada. It's something in the water: El Niño.

One expert has said that the difference between this El Niño and the one in 1982 is that last time, we didn't know in advance. Now we seem eager to make good use of our forewarning — a House panel recently held an El Niño hearing, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency says it's going to try to prepare us for this recurrent weather pattern.

But how do we prepare for another "A-Team," with Mr. T single-handedly driving up the price of gold? How can you arm yourself against hearing "She's a Maniac" every time you turn on the radio? Ready for the return of Joan Rivers as the permanent guest host of "The Tonight Show"? And what about the worst early '80s remnant of all: "Cats," the Broadway show with the half-life of plutonium?

I may be too late to do anything. There are already terrifying similarities between the last time El Niño struck and now.

In 1982, Ted Kennedy said he wouldn't run for president; in 1997, Joe Kennedy said he wouldn't run for governor. Then and now, a George Bush ogles the Oval Office. In 1983, riots over Cabbage Patch dolls; in 1997, frenzy over Beanie Babies. Niño I: the Hitler Diaries. Niño II: the JFK-Marilyn Papers.

But there may be hope. Scientists say that if we can make it through the next year, there's an opposite climate system beaded our way.

Called La Niña, it's supposed to bring cool and dry weather. So from my perspective, things are looking up.

But that may be because I'm hanging here in my old gravity inversion boots.

The writer, a screenwriter and novelist, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

# Poverty, Not Racism, Is America's Problem

By Orlando Patterson

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Why are Americans having a national argument over race?

By all objective measures — recent opinion polls, demographic data and academic studies — race relations between blacks and whites have never been better.

What is more, the majority of African-Americans are content, even optimistic, about their interactions with European-Americans, according to a close reading of a recent Gallup Poll and other surveys. This viewpoint has also been forcefully argued by the scholars Stephan and Abigail Thernstrom in their new book, "America in Black and White."

While I differ with many of their arguments, their basic premise is correct: Relations between the races are getting better, as are the conditions of black Americans. In fact, civil rights leaders insist that this belief is dangerously wrong because they think that America remains mired in racism.

But let's get the facts straight. According to the most recent census data, blacks have virtually closed the gap with whites not only in the percentage graduating from high school but also in the percentage graduating from junior college.

Black full-time workers have also started to close the income gap, according to census data. From 1970 to 1995, the average annual income of white men declined by 3 percent, to \$34,741, while that of black men increased by 11 percent, to \$27,136.

Nonetheless, major problems still remain for the bottom quarter of the African-American population — 26 percent of all black families and 41.5 percent of their children remain trapped in poverty. The situation is no longer worsening, but it is no better than conditions were a quarter century ago.

Nor have we seen the end of racism.

About 20 percent of white Americans are still at least mildly racist (meaning, among other things, that they are averse to living in neighborhoods with only a few minority families), according to my research using polls, including one in 1994 by the National Opinion Research Center.

We have made great progress, but there is still a long way to go. Here is what we should be asking: How does racism hurt the lives of African-Americans? For the poorest among them, is racism the real problem? Do ordinary black Americans think that race is their biggest problem?

When it comes to earnings and self-esteem, racism may be less of a problem for the poorest blacks and more of a problem for middle-class blacks who are in direct competition with whites for jobs, status and power.

Certainly, poor blacks are hurt by racial discrimination — mostly in biased police behavior and draconian drug-sentencing laws.

But as the sociologist William Julius Wilson emphasized, race is of secondary importance when it comes to the economic conditions of poor blacks. Poor blacks, like poor whites, are impoverished partly because they attend bad schools, come from broken families and live in broken communities.

But the basic problem is that the poor, no matter how hard they work, earn too little to pull themselves out of poverty.

Indeed, in a Gallup poll taken in June, poor blacks said that money, not racism, was their biggest problem. This poll, which measured race relations, found that three-quarters of blacks considered their own relations with whites to be good, and indeed had a close white friend.

The same poll found, however, that 53 percent of blacks were dissatisfied with their incomes. For poorer African-Americans, the figure was much higher.

If money is the problem and not racism, why do many leaders, white and black, warn that America's racial problems are getting worse? This pessimism results from a strange collision of interests.

White liberals believe to some degree the stereotype that African-Americans are a dependent and chronically victimized group. Any problem associated with blacks is simply assumed to be racist in origin. Emphasizing crisis is also an effective way to argue for more government intervention.

Black political leaders also have a vested interest in maintaining that a racial crisis exists. Their legitimacy, and a good part of their livelihood depend on defending entitlement programs.

On the right, leaders and scholars exaggerate the crisis in race relations to highlight the failures of liberal programs.

Martin Luther King's dream of an integrated America has not been deferred. The nation is overcoming what was once its greatest flaw, racism. Denying its persistence is naive and reactionary. But ignoring the extraordinary progress, while exaggerating racism's impact, is counterproductive.

It diverts attention from what is now our greatest shame — chronic poverty and growing income inequality — and it plays right into the hands of those on the right and left who promote the vile dogma of racial separatism.

The writer, a professor of sociology at Harvard, is the author of "The Ordeal of Integration: Progress and Resentment in America's 'Racial' Crisis." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Kabul Hospitals

Regarding "Leaving Women to Die" (Editorial, Nov. 11):

The statement about the World Health Organization's financing of the rehabilitation of hospitals in Kabul is misleading. The WHO has not supported the "reconstruction of a new women's hospital." Its aid is directed toward the rehabilitation of three war-damaged hospitals: the Rabia Balkhi hospital for gynecology and obstetrics and two others for emergencies and infectious diseases. Funds for the \$435,000 project were raised by several agencies, including the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program and the WHO.

The confusion may arise from the fact that Kabul authorities have renamed the Central Polyclinic built by the Soviets as the New Rabia Balkhi Hospital and allocated it to women. WHO has received no requests for its support.

M.A. SALAH, Alexandria, Egypt.

The writer is public information officer for the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean of the World Health Organization.

## On Ethnic Chinese

Regarding "When Greedy Elites Don't Learn" (Opinion, Nov. 18) by Robert Elegant:

Mr. Elegant's drawing of a contrast between Southeast Asian states run by ethnic Chinese and those governed by Malays overlooks several factors.

Both Hong Kong and Singapore, which Mr. Elegant calls "free of the cavalier approach" of the ruling classes, are tiny city-states where the problems of governance are reduced. The British ruled Hong Kong until last July and provided a stable framework in which business thrived. Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew found Singapore sandwiched between two large resource-rich and inefficient neighbors, and decided to offer the West a service center that was gratefully accepted.

If the ethnic Chinese are such good governors, then Mr. Elegant would not have to make an exception of China itself.

Mr. Elegant overlooks the fact that it was the overseas, ethnic Chinese, who spearheaded the looting spree throughout Southeast Asia during the last 30 years. The overseas Chinese tycoons who are friends of Indonesia's President Suharto are among the richest men in the world not because they won such wealth on a level playing field. Instead, they acquired it through sweetheart deals and monopolies that in effect preyed upon the local rural population.

RIZWAN SULAIMAN, Cheras, Malaysia.

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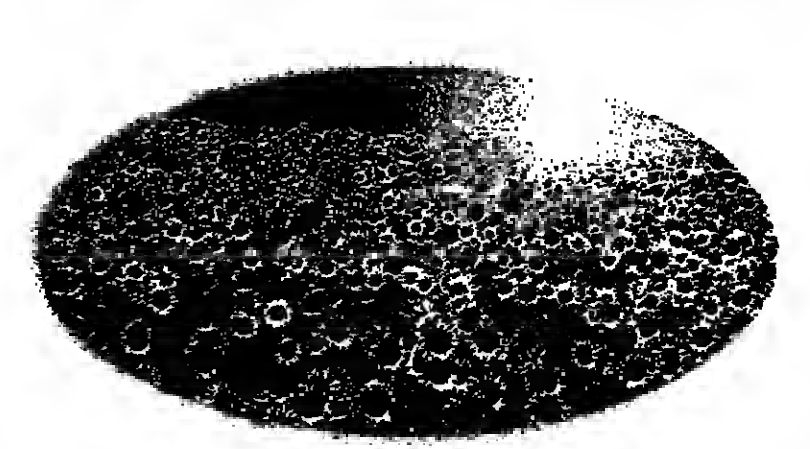
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## HEALTH/SCIENCE

# Tracing Origins of Farming Genetic Studies Fix Locations

By John Noble Wilford  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — The greatest thing before sliced bread, to reverse the cliché, was bread itself. The first cultivation of wild grains, that is, turned hunter-gatherers into farmers, beginning some 12,000 to 10,000 years ago. In the transition, people gained a more abundant and dependable source of food, including their daily bread, and changed the world forever.

Archaeologists and historians agree that the rise of agriculture, along with the domestication of animals for food and labor, produced the most important transformation in human culture since the last ice age — perhaps since the control of fire.

Farming and herding led to the growth of large, settled human populations and increasing competition for productive lands, touching off organized warfare. Food surpluses freed people to specialize in crafts like textiles and supported a privileged elite in the first cities, growing numbers of bureaucrats and scribes, soldiers and kings.

Excavations at more than 50 sites over the last half-century have established the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East as the homeland of the first farmers.

This arc of land, broadly defined, extends from Israel through Lebanon and Syria, then through the plains and hills of Iraq and southern Turkey and all the way to the head of the Gulf. Among its "founder crops" were wheat, barley, various legumes, grapes, melons, dates, pistachios and almonds. The region also produced the first domesticated sheep, goats, pigs and cattle.

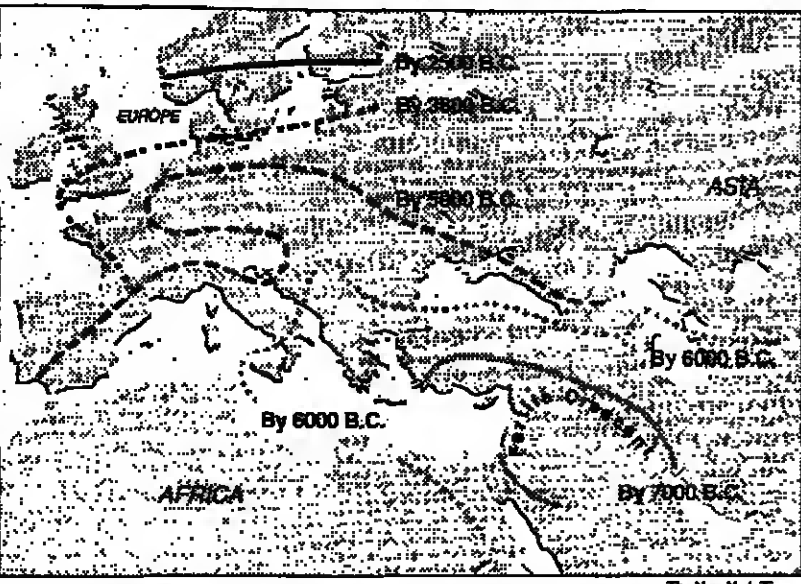
But questions persist: Where in the Fertile Crescent were the first wheat and barley crops produced? What conditions favored this region? Why was the transition from hunting and foraging to farming so swift, occurring in only a few centuries?

New genetic studies suggest possible answers. They pinpoint the Karacadağ mountains, in southeast Turkey at the upper fringes of the Fertile Crescent, as the site where einkorn wheat was first domesticated from a wild species around 11,000 years ago.

Moreover, they reveal that cultivated einkorn plants, as botanists had sus-

## The March of Agriculture

The eight domesticated crops of the Fertile Crescent, including einkorn wheat, spread across Europe and Asia, as shown by radiocarbon dating of sites where crop remains have been found.



pected, are remarkably similar genetically and in appearance to their ancestral wild varieties, which seems to explain the relatively rapid transition to farming indicated by archaeological evidence.

A team of European scientists, led by Dr. Manfred Heun of the Agricultural University of Norway, reported these findings in the current issue of the journal *Science*. The researchers analyzed the DNA from 68 lines of cultivated einkorn wheat, *Triticum monococcum monococcum*, and from 261 wild einkorn lines, *T. tauschii*, still growing in the Middle East and elsewhere.

In the study, the scientists identified a genetically distinct group of 11 varieties that was also most similar to cultivated einkorn. Because that wild group grows today near the Karacadağ mountains, in the vicinity of the modern city of Diyarbakir, and presumably was there in antiquity, the scientists concluded, this is "very probably the site of einkorn domestication."

Knowing the site for the domestication of such a primary crop, the scientists said, did not imply that the people living there at the time were the first farmers. "Nevertheless," they wrote, "it has been hypothesized that one single human group may have domesticated all primary crops of the region."

Archaeologists said that radiocarbon dating was not yet precise enough to establish whether einkorn or emmer wheat or barley was the first cereal to be domesticated. All three domestications occurred in the Fertile Crescent, probably within decades or a few centuries of each other. It was a hybrid of emmer and another species from the Caspian Sea area that produced the first bread wheat.

Dr. Bruce Smith, an archaeobotanist at the Smithsonian Institution and author of "The Emergence of Agricul-

ture," published two years ago by the Scientific American Library, praised the research as another notable example of new technologies being applied in trying to solve some of archaeology's most challenging problems. The einkorn findings, he said, made sense because they "fit pretty well with archaeological evidence."

Not far from the volcanic Karacadağ mountains and also to the south, across the border in northern Syria, archaeologists have exposed the ruins of pre-farming settlements and early agricultural villages that appear to have existed only a few centuries apart in time. Sifting the soil turned up seeds of both wild and cultivated einkorn wheat. The ruins of Abu Hureyra, an especially revealing Syrian site on the upper Euphrates River, contained evidence of einkorn farming more than 10,000 years ago.

But some archaeologists may not readily accept the new findings. They have their own favorite areas where they think the first steps in plant domestication took place, and these happen to be to the west and south of the Turkish mountains.

Mud-brick ruins at the edge of an oasis in the Jordan River valley near Jericho have often been cited as from the world's first known farming village, occupied by an ancient people that archaeologists call the Natufians.

Dr. Frank Hole, a Yale University archaeologist who specializes in early agriculture, thinks the major center for early plant domestication was more likely in the corridor running north from the Dead Sea to Damascus.

Its Mediterranean-type climate, dry summers and mild but wet winters, which prevailed at the time of agricultural origins, would have favored the growth of annual plants like barley and both einkorn and emmer wheat. The Jericho site produced early evidence of barley cultivation.

American Africanists have consistently spoken for them. "Under African Skies: Modern African Stories" has to be read against that backdrop.

The book brings together 26 writers from across the continent. There is a fair representation of older and newer writers but clearly some imbalances in other areas. For example, the geographic regions represented are southern Africa, east Africa and west Africa. Northern Africa seems to have been overlooked again in favor of a south-of-the-Sahara emphasis. There is a bias in favor of male writers: 20 of them and only six females. So important voices such as Elna Sutherland, Buchi Emecheta, Flora Nwapa, Mariama Ba and Nawal el Saadawi are absent.

More problematically, Larsoo justifies this imbalance in his introduction: "Too many [African women in the 1950s and 1960s] were published solely because of their gender. In choosing the selections for this anthology, I read stories by many of them and, I am sorry to say, was appalled at how poorly written some were." Consequently, few of the early selections in this anthology are by women writers. He even says, boldly, that fortunately this situation has changed with the advent of a few new writers (Yvonne Vera, Veronique Tadjo, Sindiwe Magona).

Very few contemporary African women writers would support such an attempt at creating a generational split and the kind of concession that it implies. But, more important, those of us who have worked in women's writing have seen that kind of charge repeated ad nauseam. The critic, usually male, uses his own "standards" and aesthetic positions and attempts to generalize about

the entire body of literature. He then proceeds to assume that whatever he does not understand derives from a flaw in the writer, not in himself. Clearly, the kind of respect that Zora Neale Hurston's work has garnered upon re-reading by feminist scholars is a fitting critique of that stance. Larsoo thus gives new life to Ayi Kwei Armah's charge of "larsoony," especially since so much has happened in African women's writing between Larsoo's earlier anthology and this one.

What is most valuable about "Under African Skies," though, is its interplay between at least three generations of African writers. I found it interesting to read some of the first wave of writers like Amos Tutuola, Es'kia Mphahlele, Camara Laye, and Chinua Achebe against the generation that came of age during the struggles for decolonization — Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Sembene Ousmane, Ama Ata Aidoo — and then the more recent writers like Vera, Tadjo and Ben Okri. An important contribution is Ken Saro-Wiwa's "Africa Kills Her Sun," which is a fitting commentary on the kind of self-destructiveness that resulted in the writer's own execution. Though written at least nine years before his death, the story makes difficult reading for anyone familiar with Saro-Wiwa's murder.

While this book had the potential of presenting a new canon of readable African writers, finally it has to be taken as simply another anthology of African literature that does its own work.

Carole Bayne Davies, a professor of English and African Studies and director of African-New World Studies at Florida International University, wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

## BOOKS

### UNDER AFRICAN SKIES:

Modern African Stories

Edited by Charles R. Larson. 311 pages. \$25. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Reviewed by Carole Joyce Davies

**I**n a controversial piece called "Larsoony or Fiction as Criticism of Fiction," Ayi Kwei Armah accused Africanists, such as Charles Larson, of capitalizing on African literatures, lord it over the writers and functioning as the ones authorizing the literature. Armah's assertion came out of a period now identified as the height of decolonization struggles on the continent and of Black Power movements around the world. His charge effectively articulated the sense of self-ownership and self-definition that African scholars were advancing.

Indeed, Larsoo had earlier edited "African Short Stories: A Collection of Contemporary African Writing" (1970) and had published "The Emergence of African Fiction" (1972), which was required reading for those embarking on graduate education in African literatures in the 1970s. So Larsoo is one of those scholars of European descent who were able to have a pivotal role in the shaping of African literature in questions of audience, the academy, marketing and entry into the canon. In recent years, however, the African Studies Association has been the site of charges and counter-charges of this nature. On the one hand, European and American specialists on Africa want to continue to dominate a field which many of them have worked hard to develop. On the other side, African scholars have mounted a certain defense against the ways in which Euro-

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

**F**OR five world champions to take part in a club game is very rare. It happened recently at the Harmonie club's annual Expert-Member night.

But none of the five, were able to win. Victory with 66 percent went to veteran Boris Koytchou. Second with 63 percent were Sue Picus and Barry Rigal, who won a year ago. Third with 61 percent, and winning in the expert category, were Norman Matthews and Joe Leff of Purchase, New York.

All the players failed the difficult bidding test presented by the following deal. At most tables South simply bid four spades after hearing a weak raise from North.

When the dummy appeared they realized unhappily that they should have bid more — the hands fit superbly. Since spades and diamonds both broke favorably, and the heart finesse succeeded, they made 13 tricks without difficulty.

Six spades, reached by two of the nonexpert partnerships but none of the experts, is a borderline contract. It needs a good trump division together with 2-2 diamonds, irrespective of the heart position; one trump loser together with 2-2 diamonds and a winning heart finesse, or a good trump division together with 3-1 diamonds and a winning heart finesse.

Six diamonds by South, however, is a wonderful contract that will almost always succeed unless the trumps di-

vide 4-0. From the North side, a heart lead is a nuisance but the contract is still good. But how can diamonds be reached after a spade fit is uncovered?

This is a constant problem in standard bidding. One tends to assume that a major-suit fit rules out all other strains. There were two ways that the problem might have been solved. One, as shown in the diagram, is for South to show diamonds at his second turn instead of leaping to game. Then North can raise, and with two aces will cooperate when South hints at slam.

The other way was for South to jump to four clubs at his second turn, a splinter suggesting slam interest and at most one club. The North hand would be highly suit-

able, but the partnership would still have the problem of shifting gears to reach diamonds rather than spades.

|   |           |              |             |
|---|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| NORTH                                     |           |              |             |
| ♠ A 10 4                                  | ♥ 10 7 3  | ♦ 10 9 7 5 2 | ♣ A 7       |
| WEST                                      |           |              |             |
| ♠ J 8 7                                   | ♥ J 9 4 2 | ♦ J 8        | ♣ J 8       |
| ♠ K 10 9 3                                | ♥ A 6 5   | ♦ K 10 9 3   | ♣ J 8 6 5 2 |
| SOUTH                                     |           |              |             |
| ♠ K Q 9 3 2                               | ♥ A Q 6   | ♦ A K 6 4    | ♣ 4         |
| Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding: |           |              |             |
| East                                      | South     | West         | North       |
| Pass                                      | 1♣        | Pass         | 2♣          |
| Pass                                      | 1♥        | Pass         | 4♥          |
| Pass                                      | Pass      | Pass         | 6♣          |
| West led the club ten.                    |           |              |             |

# Einstein Cleared of Plagiarism

By William J. Broad  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — One of the triumphs of modern science is the general theory of relativity, which defies common sense by describing the gravitational attraction between planetary bodies as the curvature of a bizarre entity called space-time.

Despite its many predictive successes over the decades, the theory has existed under an inconspicuous cloud since its publication in 1915 because of questions over its authorship.

While Albert Einstein was usually hailed publicly as author of the theory, behind the scenes another scientist, David Hilbert, claimed to be the theory's author and clashed with Einstein over who had priority in the insight.

The dispute eventually became caustic. Einstein contended that Hilbert had stolen the theory after reading one of his papers, and some of Hilbert's sup-

porters quietly suggested years later that it had actually been Einstein who committed plagiarism.

Now, three historians of science have examined the dispute and have vindicated Einstein. They say Hilbert appears to have lifted a key concept from Einstein's manuscript.

"A close analysis of archival material reveals that Hilbert did not anticipate Einstein," Leo Corry, Joergen Renn and John Stachel write in the current issue of the *Journal of Science*.

The conventional wisdom among contemporary scholars was that Hilbert completed the general theory of relativity at least five days before Einstein submitted his conclusive paper on Nov. 25, 1915, and that the two men had hit upon the revolutionary idea independently.

That view came into question when Dr. Corry, a historian at Tel Aviv University, was doing some archival work and stumbled upon a hitherto unnoticed set of proofs of Hilbert's paper.

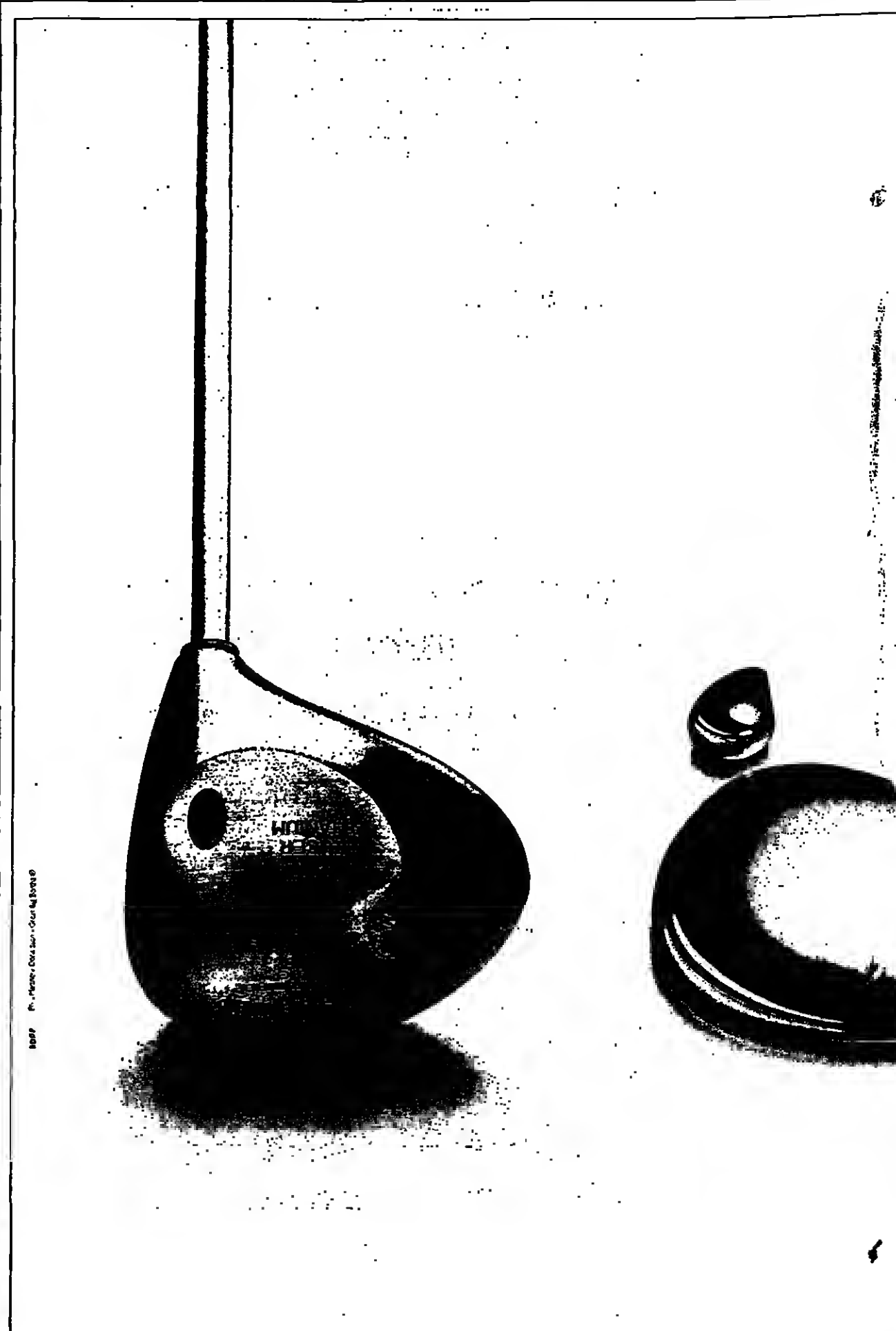
Detailed analysis and comparison of these proofs with published versions of both Hilbert's paper and Einstein's papers on gravitation enabled Dr. Corry and his colleagues to reconstruct an account of the crucial weeks in November 1915. And what they uncovered differed radically from the standard view.

The new evidence shows that Hilbert's proofs lacked the critical ingredient for the theory's success, something called covariance.

"The theory he originally submitted is not generally covariant," the authors wrote.

Although Hilbert's article bore the submission date of Nov. 20, 1915, it was not actually published until March 31, 1916 — long after Einstein's paper was public. The final article was covariant.

The new revelation "excludes the possibility that Einstein plagiarized from Hilbert the last crucial step in completing general relativity," the scholars concluded.



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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Evaluating Acupuncture: Medical Profession Is Divided

By Jane E. Brody  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — In 1971, James Reston, The New York Times columnist underwent an emergency appendectomy in China and described acupuncture's success in relieving his postoperative pain.

Since then, acupuncture has flourished in the West, mainly among lay practitioners trained in this technique, in which certain points are stimulated on or under the skin, mostly with ultrafine needles.

Although acupuncture does not cure anything, advocates of the technique say that for many common health problems, especially those involving chronic pain, acupuncture is at least as effective as standard medical remedies like drugs and surgery and usually safer.

Still, mainstream medicine has been reluctant to endorse acupuncture as a potentially valuable tool, citing as its

main reasons scientifically inadequate studies, mystical explanations of how the technique works, the risk of misdiagnosis and the possibility of hazards from medically unsupervised treatments.

Patients, meanwhile, have been voting with their pocketbooks. In 1993, the Food and Drug Administration reported that more than a million Americans spent about \$500 million each year to get up to 12 million acupuncture treatments. Patients pay for most of those treatments because few insurers cover them.

Are these patients simply buying an expensive placebo, or do therapeutic benefits emerge from acupuncture treatments?

This month, experts who were asked by the consensus development program of the National Institutes of Health to summarize the best available tests of acupuncture's effects found several well-documented benefits and the potential for many more for which rigorous scientific proof is not available.

Patients most often seek acupuncture to relieve painful conditions that fail to go away on their own, that do not respond well to standard treatments or that may require more hazardous remedies, like surgery or the long-term use of potent drugs. An independent panel evaluating the reports concluded that acupuncture could alleviate acute pain — for example, postoperative pain — and might also help control chronic pain, like chronic migraines, neck pain, muscle pain and osteoarthritis of the knee. The panel also found acupuncture to be highly effective in combating nausea caused by pregnancy, anesthesia or cancer chemotherapy.

Presentations to the consensus conference made it all too clear why the American medical establishment has failed to give acupuncture its blessing. Without big money to underwrite large long-term studies of acupuncture's potential contribution to healing, the overwhelming majority of studies have involved too few patients and too little

time to prove anything one way or another.

Researchers debated how best to study acupuncture. Should it be compared with no treatment, an inactive placebo or sham acupuncture (which in itself has some effects) or should it be measured against standard medical therapies? Should the results be assessed by someone other than the acupuncturist? Should patients who previously had acupuncture be excluded from the studies? Or should only those patients who are known to respond positively to acupuncture be studied? And to determine whether acupuncture is effective, which of the more than 2,000 points on the human body should be needed, how often and for how long?

**D**R. Steve Birch of the APT Foundation in New Haven, Connecticut, said that an adequate test of acupuncture for chronic pain should involve needling at 10 sites for at least 10 treatments. "But none of the headache studies I reviewed met these criteria," he reported. At best, Dr. Birch could say that acupuncture was better than an inactive placebo and roughly equivalent to standard headache therapy. But since the treatment of chronic headaches involves medications that often have unpleasant and side effects, acupuncture may be preferable because it rarely causes side effects.

Another consideration is the therapeutic milieu. Practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine challenged the design of acupuncture studies that ignore its usual holistic therapeutic context, which often involves "TLC," herbal remedies and individualized treatment based on each patient's unique characteristics. In other words, it may not be possible to strip the art from the science of acupuncture and end up with a meaningful result.

Another question is whether the observed benefits of acupuncture can be explained physiologically. Researchers at the consensus conference cited several biological effects of acupuncture that might account for its benefits. These include the release in the brain and spinal cord of chemicals that subdue pain and transmit messages to nerves and



Dr. Brian Berman treating a patient in Maryland for knee pain.

muscles, as well as hormonal changes and increases in cerebral blood flow and immune function.

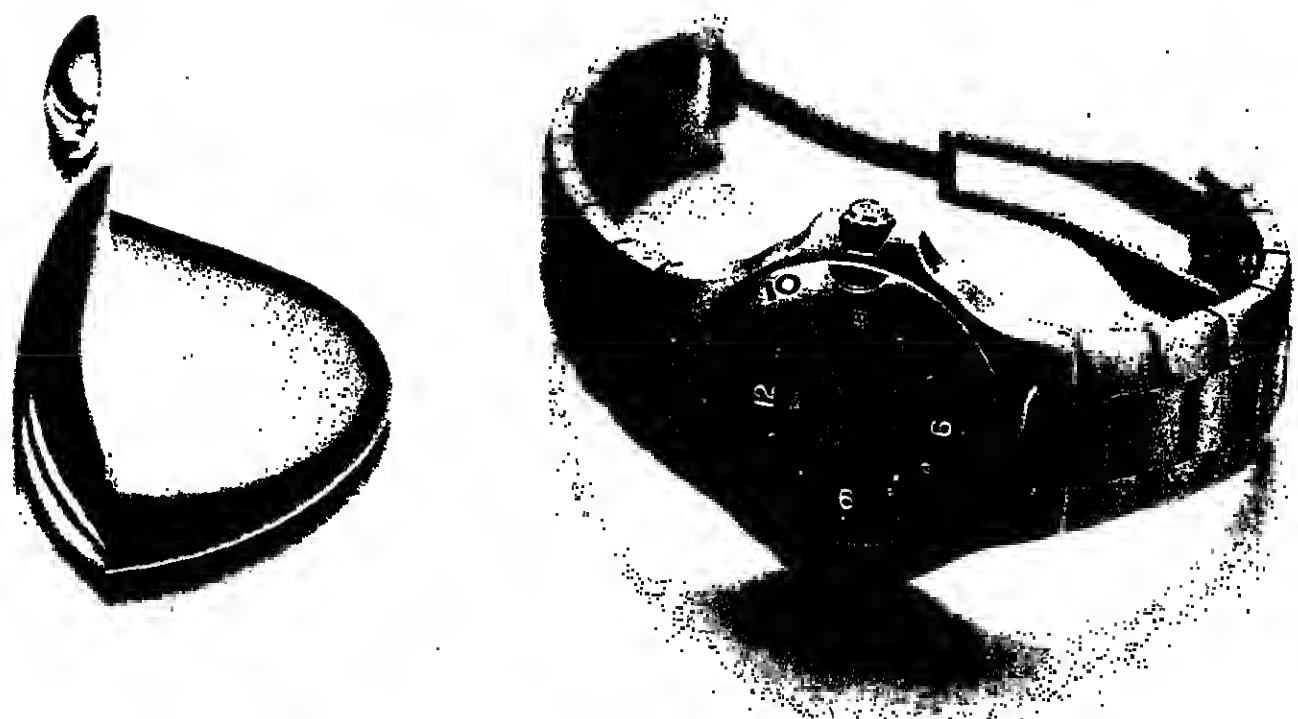
Rather than viewing acupuncture as an "alternative" treatment, patients should regard it as complementary to standard medical practice, researchers and many practitioners at the meeting said.

Before seeking treatments from an acupuncturist, patients should see a doctor to determine the diagnosis and weigh the standard therapeutic options. As one practitioner noted, treating pain of unknown origin with acupuncture can mask a serious underlying condition and delay the correct diagnosis and treatment, sometimes with serious, even fatal, consequences.

And note: Insist that any acupuncturist use sterile, disposable needles. This will avoid the most frequent risk of acupuncture — transmission of an infectious disease like hepatitis or AIDS.

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New Ways to Save Monuments

By Steve Coates  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — What if there was a way to rescue decomposed stone, particularly the marble and limestone that make up some of the world's best-loved monuments? Many of them, like the Parthenon, the Taj Mahal and even the Lincoln Memorial, have long been threatened by acid rain and other effects of airborne pollution.

In fact, liquid chemical compounds that essentially glue weakened stone surfaces together have been around for years. By many measures, these consolidants are impressive, but they also have many drawbacks. So researchers in the United States and Europe are continually looking for ways to improve them. Some promising work at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on ways to make consolidants adhere better to limestone and marble has recently received considerable attention.

Meanwhile, other researchers are studying how consolidants work long term, a major area of concern. Last month, for example, Minnesota approved a three-to-five-year study of the state capital in St. Paul, an important Cass Gilbert edifice opened in 1905, where consolidants were applied to the magnificent marble dome in 1989. Glenn Boornazian, an architectural conservator with Integrated Conservation Resources, in New York, said the tests would be among the first to involve extensive research specifically into the effects reapplication might have on the stone.

Modern consolidants were developed in the 1960s, spurred by the widespread damage to stone buildings in Venice in a decade of flooding. Since then, these chemicals have been used as a last-ditch defense against surface loss in a range of architectural and artistic restoration projects, from the Washington Square Arch

in New York to the medieval sculptures of the Church of Saint-Trophime in Arles, France.

"You're asking a person not only to glue stone back together and stabilize it for the next 50 years, but you're telling them to do it so the stone still breathes," Dr. Boornazian said. "It's a near impossible feat, but this material comes very close to doing it."

But consolidants, which chemists and conservators say are still far from being a magic potion, have many limitations. They are toxic and difficult to apply. Their preservative effects, particularly on calcium carbonate stones — limestone and marble — are only temporary, and they permanently alter the nature of the stone. Most important, their long-term effects are uncertain. For these reasons, their use is banned on the Acropolis in Athens.

The difficulties have led some experts to conclude that efforts should concentrate on preventing damage rather than repairing it. Others say the problems make the effort to improve consolidants more pressing.

**M**ANY chemists and conservators expect a satisfactory consolidant for limestone and marble to remain elusive. It is not so much a failure of science, they say, as an illustration of the immense complexity of stone and the processes of its deterioration.

"There are so many variables in stone deterioration that chaos theory really offers the only way to see the interaction of them all," said Dr. Victor Mossotti, a geochemist with the U.S. Geological Survey, in Menlo Park, California.

For starters, Dr. Mossotti said that alarm over the acid damage from pollution had overshadowed a range of other important problems. It has often been pointed out that rainwater is naturally slightly acidic, he said, but even if it

were not, marble and limestone are soluble in pure water. Dr. Mossotti said that plain water, particularly flowing water, was probably the biggest single factor in architectural erosion.

Water runoff also tends to deposit soot, fly ash, dust, bird droppings, and associated biological growth in patterns over the surface of a building, where it can in turn absorb moisture and keep it on the stone. In addition to dissolving the stone, that moisture can become part of a freeze-thaw cycle that damages the surface and exposes it to further penetration.

Beyond the immediate problem of adhesion, the way consolidants function as a substitute binder is enough to suggest an array of things that could go wrong, said Kate Burns Ottavino, director of preservation at A. Ottavino Corp., a conservation and building company in Queens County, New York. "Will they be equally as permeable as the binding they replace?" she asked. "Will they expand and contract at a comparable rate? Do they absorb the same amount of water? How do micro-organisms react with them? Any of these factors could involve negative consequences."

To match stone with the right consolidant, tests are typically done on the stone before it is consolidated to measure water, acid, and salt absorption; porosity; vapor transmission; and solubility. It is particularly important to test the depth of penetration of a consolidant, which needs to infiltrate through the deteriorated layer to bind with healthy stone. Otherwise, the consolidated surface is likely to delaminate, or peel away in sheets. Yet there are no established standards for applying the test results in choosing a consolidant or in deciding whether to use one at all.

"It's pretty much been up to the judgment of the individual conservator," said Dr. David Wessel, conservator with the Architectural Resources Group, in San Francisco.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Construct
- 5 Meadow sounds
- 9 Barbra's "A Star Is Born" co-star
- 13 "The Good Earth" heroine
- 14 Runs while sitting
- 16 Cassio's rival
- 17 Benchmark
- 18 Hotel employee
- 19 False locks
- 20 Cheesy TV comedy
- 23 Witch's potential
- 24 A mean Amin
- 25 Cheesy TV cop show?

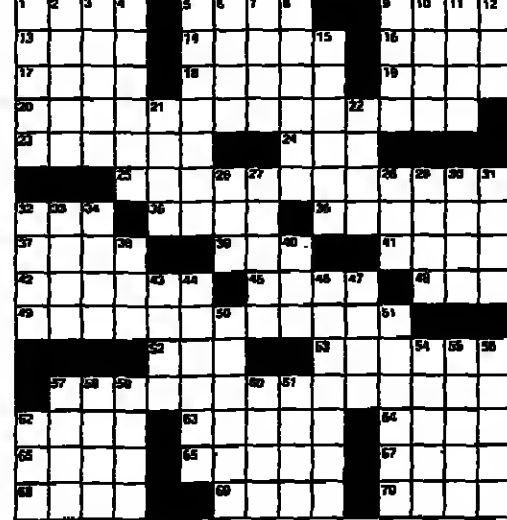
DOWN

- 32 Doo-wop syllable
- 35 Floor model
- 36 Change
- 37 Chirac's state
- 38 Country singer
- 41 Surin, e.g.
- 42 1970 Tony winner for "Appaloosa"
- 43 Harsh words
- 46 Locomobile
- 48 Contemporary
- 49 Cheesy TV comedy
- 52 Back, in a way
- 53 Muss up
- 57 Cheesy TV detective show, with "The 7"
- 62 Clue

- 63 South African province
- 64 TV knob
- 65 Toiletries case
- 66 One of the Titans
- 67 Jim Davis canine
- 68 Member of a traditional establishment
- 69 First name in TV comedy
- 70 Russo of "Outbreak"

- 22 Peeve
- 23 Signal booster
- 27 Circus noises
- 28 Speculations
- 29 Tack, in a way
- 30 "— homo"
- 31 "How to Make an American Quilt" author
- 32 Corporate concern
- 33 Bryce Canyon locale
- 34 Defensive spray
- 36 Flat hat
- 40 Welcome site
- 43 Outdoor party
- 44 Scale holder
- 46 All
- 47 One who leads class struggle?
- 50 "Foul!"
- 51 Swain

- 54 Water park sight
- 55 Order of — (bygone award)
- 56 Leader of cosmetics
- 57 Romance writer's sword
- 58 Load to bear
- 59 Bathroom cabinet item
- 60 Oklahoma native



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz.

IN BRIEF

Gene Variant Protects Against Lung Cancer

**WASHINGTON** — About eight percent of Americans have a gene variant that protects them against lung cancer, even when they smoke, U.S. government researchers said Wednesday.

They said the gene variant — one of several normal versions of the gene — reduces the risk of lung cancer by about 54 percent among smokers.

This could explain why a few people seem to be able to smoke with impunity, while many others succumb to lung cancer, which doctors say is almost always linked with smoking.

"This is a preliminary study — it requires confirmation in other data," cautioned Dr. Stephanie London of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, who wrote the report. Dr. London's team said about 9.4 percent of black Americans and 7.8 percent of whites who were studied had the gene variation.

It affects a gene that controls production of an enzyme known as myeloperoxidase.

People with a mutation of the gene, known as A/A, seem to produce less of this enzyme, Dr. London's team reported in the journal Cancer Research.

Most people have versions known as A/G or G/G, she said.

Working with BioServe Biotechnology, they collected blood samples from people with and without lung cancer in Los Angeles County in California. Only about 5 percent of the 339 people who had lung cancer had the A/A gene, but 8 percent of the 703 people who did not have lung cancer had the A/A mutation. (Reuters)

So That's Why You Chose The Beerenauslese

**NEW YORK** — Merchants take heed: A team of English psychologists has demonstrated that wine buyers listening to French accordion music tend to choose French wines, while customers exposed to German beer-cellar tunes tend to buy German wines.

The marked effect of national music on wine customers was reported in the current issue of the journal Nature by psychologists at the University of Leicester, England.

A questionnaire answered by 44 customers (about half the buyers) revealed a general preference for French wines. Despite this, however, German wines outsold French ones on days when German music was played, and French wine sold better when accompanied by easily identifiable French accordion music. Despite the clear statistical match be-

tween types of music and wine sales, only six of the 44 customers answered yes to a question asking: "Did the type of music playing influence your choice of wine?" (A17)

A More Effective Therapy For Breast Cancer Victims

**WASHINGTON** — The risk of death after five years was reduced by more than a third for breast cancer patients treated with both chemotherapy and tamoxifen, an anti-estrogen drug, when compared to treatment with tamoxifen alone, a study found.

In a study of more than 2,300 patients who had undergone surgery for breast cancer, researchers compared the rate of survival and of cancer spread among three groups that received different post-surgical drug treatment.

One group was treated with tamoxifen alone. Another group received tamoxifen, plus two chemotherapy drugs, methotrexate and fluorouracil. The third group received all of the other drugs plus cyclophosphamide.

When evaluating patients who developed tumors distant from the breast there was a reduction of 33 percent in risk for women receiving the multidrug treatments when compared to those who received tamoxifen alone. (AP)



**Wednesday's 4 P.M.**  
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.  
*The Associated Press.*

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**Continued on Page 16 - 17**

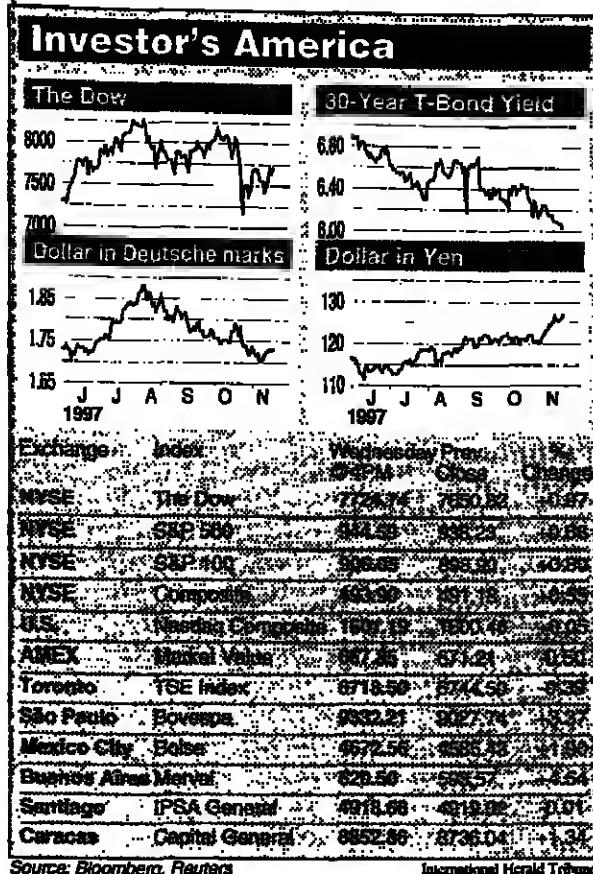
هَكَذَا مِنْ الْأَمَلِ







## THE AMERICAS



## Very briefly:

- Total Rental Care Holdings Inc. will buy Renal Treatment Centers Inc. for about \$1.3 billion in stock, almost doubling the size of one of the largest U.S. operators of dialysis centers.
- U.S. Airways Group Inc. will buy its Washington-New York-Boston Shuttle, which is owned by a group of banks and in which the airline holds a minority stake, for \$285 million.
- General Electric Co.'s appliance division will cut about 275 jobs in Louisville, Kentucky, by the end of the year.
- Time Warner Inc., the second-largest cable operator in the United States, agreed to sell some cable systems in three Southern states to a partnership of Renaissance Media Partners LLC and Morgan Stanley Capital Partners as part of an effort to trim its \$17 billion in debt.
- Raytheon Co. plans to close 12 facilities and parts of eight others in a cost-cutting move associated with its \$12.5 billion series of acquisitions, according to a company document.
- Texas Instruments Inc. agreed to buy Amati Communications Corp. for \$395 million, topping a bid from Westell Technologies Inc.
- HFS Inc., which owns Avis Rent-A-Car and Ramada Inn, agreed to buy the tax preparer Jackson Hewitt Inc. for \$480 million, giving it another franchise to augment its push into financial services.

## Dow Jones Markets to Cut 300 Jobs

**Bloomberg News**  
NEW YORK — Dow Jones & Co. said Wednesday it would cut as many as 300 jobs in its Dow Jones Markets financial news and data unit as it scales back its plans to pump \$650 million into the unit. The company also plans to

## INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

| Nov. 19, 1997 |       |       |       |       | High Low Last Chg Opt        |       |       |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Grains        |       |       |       |       | High Low Last Chg Opt        |       |       |       |       |
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## Bank Shares and Falling Bond Yields Push Stocks Up

**Bloomberg News**  
NEW YORK — Stocks rose Wednesday as bank and finance shares gained on expectations for more mergers and falling interest rates. Mellon Bank and Merrill Lynch led gainers among banks and brokers amid high-profile takeovers in their respective industries. Seagate Technology dropped after warning of disappointing earnings. The Dow Jones industrial

average closed 73.92 points higher at 7,274.74. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index gained 6.36, to 944.59. The Nasdaq composite index, heavy with computer-related shares, gained 0.75 point to 1,601.19 after trading lower most of the day. The bond market seemed to pay little attention to the housing starts report, which showed that construction of new homes and apartments unexpectedly rose 1.4 percent

to 1.53 million units in October on a seasonally adjusted basis. U.S. bond prices rose and yields fell to the lowest in 21 months after a plunge in Japanese stocks rekindled buying of Treasury securities. "It's safe-harbor investing," said Alan Day of

at American Express Asset Management Group Inc. in Minneapolis. "I don't think inflation is going to be a problem." Recent events in Asia are "probably accentuating that," he said. The worst performers among big stocks included companies that benefit from a strong global economy, such as auto and steel stocks. The other slumping groups — computers and oil-field service and equipment stocks — were some of the best performers this year, so investors may be selling them in favor of stocks that should do better in a more subdued market.

"Demand is still very strong," said Eric Wiegand, of First Union Corp.'s capital management group in Philadelphia. "I don't think the

individual investor has been shaken." U.S. equity mutual funds took in an estimated \$5.3 billion in the two days ended Monday, according to Mutual Fund Trim Tabs, which tracks fund flows. CoreStates Financial fell 1 to 78 after gaining Tuesday on news the Philadelphia banking company had agreed to be acquired by First Union for more than \$16 billion in stock, the biggest U.S. bank takeover ever. First Union fell 1 3/4 to 48 1/2. Mellon Bank, which last month offered to buy CoreStates Financial and was rebuffed, rose 2 1/4 to 55 1/2 on speculation it may be a takeover candidate. Among other regional banks, Fleet Financial Group,

## Electronic 'Toys' Grow Up Rapidly

By Paul Floren

International Herald Tribune

LAS VEGAS — One indication of how quickly information technology is advancing is the speed at which electronic gadgets evolve into serious business aids. The Comdex computer show is a showcase for many of them.

As recently as two years ago, computer chips in handheld devices could record only about five minutes of sound, nowhere near enough to compete with magnetic tape recorders. But now, Voice It Worldwide Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, is exhibiting a palm-sized digital recorder that records 100 minutes of audio and comes with equipment to link it to a personal computer. Voice It says the product, which sells for \$299, will soon include voice-recognition software that automatically transcribes the tape into text using a word-processing program.

In the same vein, CyberStuff Corp. of Richmond, Virginia, has developed a joystick, called CyberStick, that not only facilitates video-game skills but might serve as an aid to surgeons and engineers. The joystick, shaped like a pistol, is tethered to a computer by a light cable. Unlike traditional sticks, which sit on a base and are manipulated by the user's hands, the CyberStuff device responds to hand motions: Turn your wrist to the left, and the motion is transmitted to the computer.

For the game player, the S89 product is like grasping a real sword hilt instead of a joystick planted in a base, and the unit offers far greater sensitivity, the company says. As the technology advances and becomes more precise, it could be applied to help doctors perform delicate operations, according to the company. It might also be used to operate remote aircraft or spacecraft with greater precision. Full Circle Technologies Inc. of Burlington, Ontario, has developed a virtual watchdog called VirusWeb to protect the most critical parts of a computer's memory from virus infection. VirusWeb is hardware, a card that is inserted into one of the computer's expansion slots to try to detect viruses before they can reach the computer. If a virus is found, the company says, the card halts all computer activity and blocks the offending software from advancing into the computer. It sells for \$59.

## Yen Falls in Wake of Nikkei's Plunge

**Bloomberg News**  
NEW YORK — The dollar gained against the yen and most other major currencies Wednesday as diminished hopes that Japan would bail out its banks sent Tokyo stocks into a tailspin.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 5.3 percent, its biggest one-day drop in almost three years, after Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka dashed speculation that the government would use public money to prop up the nation's beleaguered banks.

"Japan's unwillingness to take on the responsibility for its banks was the nail in the coffin for the Nikkei," said Bob

Savage, a trader at Lehman Brothers. The dollar rose to 126.925 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 126.135 yen Tuesday.

The U.S. currency could rise as high as 130 yen in the next two weeks, said Jeffrey Yu, a trader at Sanwa Bank.

"It looks like the government is reluctant to provide leadership and incentive on helping banks," Mr. Yu said.

"That's why the dollar is up at these levels."

The dollar also climbed to 1.7323 Deutsche marks from 1.7290 DM as re-

ports showed slowing money-supply growth and ebbing business confidence in Germany, quelling speculation that German interest rates might soon head higher. Growth in the M-3 money supply, the main gauge of inflationary pressure, slowed to an annualized 5.1 percent in October from 5.2 percent in September.

On Tuesday, Bundesbank officials gave conflicting signals on whether they might raise interest rates soon.

In other trading, the pound was unchanged at \$1.6910. The dollar fell to 1.4038 Swiss francs from 1.4053 francs but rose to 5.7980 French francs from 5.7922 francs.

## AMEX

| Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close |        |        |        |        | The 300 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street. |        |        |        |        |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| The Associated Press.    |        |        |        |        |  |        |        |        |        |
| Stock                    | Price  | High   | Low    | Change | Stock  | Price  | High   | Low    | Change |
| IBM                      | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | IBM  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Microsoft                | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Microsoft  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Apple                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Apple  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Oracle                   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Oracle   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Sun                      | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Sun  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| HP                       | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | HP   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Intel                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Intel  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Motorola                 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Motorola   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| TI                       | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | TI   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| AMD                      | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | AMD  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| LSI                      | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | LSI  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| SGS                      | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | SGS  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| U.S. Steel               | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | U.S. Steel   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Acme                     | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Acme   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Alcoa                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Alcoa  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Armco                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Armco  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Bethlehem                | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Bethlehem  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Chrysler                 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Chrysler   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Ford                     | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Ford   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| General Motors           | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | General Motors   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Hewlett-Packard          | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Hewlett-Packard  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Johnson & Johnson        | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Johnson & Johnson  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Merck                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Merck  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Pfizer                   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Pfizer   | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Roche                    | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Roche  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Schering-Plough          | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Schering-Plough  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
| Schwarz                  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   | Schwarz  | 126.13 | 126.13 | 126.13 | 0.00   |
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EUROPE

# Paris Checks Math And Slices Deficit

## Revenue Revision Nears Euro Limit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — The government revised its 1997 budget Wednesday in a move that ministers said would ensure that the deficit this year would fall to 3.1 percent of national output, taking France closer to the qualification level for the European single currency.

The budgetary revision will reduce the central government's deficit target for this year to 270.7 billion francs (\$46.8 billion), 14.1 billion francs less than in the original budget. Budget Minister Christian Sautter said. The deficit last year was 295.4 billion francs. The federal budget is the main component of the national budget, which also includes local government and social-security spending.

The revision manages to lower the deficit target without substantially reducing spending or raising taxes. Instead, the government raised its forecast of revenue from existing taxes this year and levied one-time charges on state-owned companies. Combined, these measures accounted for a net 13.3 billion francs.

"You cannot point the finger and accuse them of manipulation, but it is startlingly convenient," said Sonja Gibbs, an economist at Nomura International. "The most charitable interpretation

is that it's a typical tax revision at this time of the year, which fortunately comes out better than expected."

Paris needs to get the national deficit close to 3.0 percent of gross domestic product to qualify to join the currency, the euro, at its scheduled introduction in January 1999.

The government has said it will trim a further 0.1 percentage point from the deficit next year to reach the goal.

The revised budget ensures that France "will be absolutely on track to join the euro, which wasn't the case in July," Mr. Sautter said.

The move also will "soothe the tension that's been fermenting between France and Germany," Ms. Gibbs said. "The closer France gets, the less Germany has to complain about."

Financial markets had little response to the revision, details of which already had been leaked. The government said 9.6 billion francs would come from tax revenue not foreseen in its September budget and 3.7 billion francs would come from state-owned companies, including 2 billion francs from the financial institution Caisse des Dépôts. There will be 800 million francs in additional savings, it said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

# Czech Cabinet Authorizes Sale Of Strategic Stakes in 3 Banks

Reuters

PRAGUE — The Czech government ended years of speculation Wednesday by approving a plan to complete the privatization of three of the country's largest banks.

The Finance Ministry plan calls for the sale of strategic stakes in each bank to foreign investors through tenders. Finance Minister Ivan Filip said after a cabinet meeting.

He said that 51 percent of

the trade bank Československá Obchodní Banka, 34 percent of the largest commercial bank, Komerční Banka, and 34 percent of the largest retail savings bank, Česká Spořitelna, would be sold first. Each stake would be sold to single buyers.

Mr. Filip said separate advisers would be chosen for each tender, with conditions to be set by February. The remaining state share of the banks would be sold later.

# Zimbabwe Says Economy on Track

By Tom Buerkle  
International Herald Tribune

GABORONE, Botswana — President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe on Wednesday defended his government's decision to pay large amounts of compensation to veterans of the country's fight for black rule, saying the recent move would not derail its economic reform efforts and should not deter foreign investors.

The comments by Mr. Mugabe came as Zimbabwe encountered its worst economic difficulties in years. Fears about a mushrooming budget deficit and the suspension in July of balance-of-payments loans from the International Monetary Fund caused the Zimbabwe dollar to tumble last week, prompting the government to impose stiff foreign-exchange controls Tuesday.

The situation has raised concerns that Southern Africa could be caught up in the recent financial meltdown emanating from Southeast Asia just as the region was beginning to see its best economic growth in decades. The countries of the Southern African Development Community had growth averaging 4 percent in 1996, and political leaders are hoping to translate the re-

gion's new peace and political stability into sustainable development.

Mr. Mugabe said the veterans' payments were an essential act of social justice that would help alleviate poverty among some 60,000 former soldiers who fought to topple Zimbabwe's white-minority government in the 1970s. He said the country would finance the one-time payment of about 4.5 billion Zimbabwe dollars (\$352.9 million) out of its own resources and told foreign investors they should not be concerned.

The funds "won't come from investment capital," he said at a conference on Southern African trade and investment here, organized by the International Herald Tribune.

In Harare on Tuesday, Finance Minister Herbert Murerwa of Zimbabwe unveiled an emergency austerity package of spending cuts, tax increases and foreign-exchange controls. The package was intended to finance the veterans' payments, stabilize the Zimbabwe dollar and persuade the IMF to resume the balance-of-payments loans.

It was unclear whether the measures would reassure investors, however. Many economists say the government can ill afford the payments with the

budget deficit already soaring. Moreover, a decision announced Tuesday requiring companies to close about \$150 million of foreign-currency accounts worried many executives, who said the accounts were vital to financing trade and encouraging investment. The move requires companies to sell their dollars, rand and other foreign currencies.

"It will make investors who are seeking export earnings think twice," said Bernard Tafa, executive director of Chibuku Regional Investments, a Mozambique brewing company.

Justifying the move, Mr. Murerwa said companies had been abusing the accounts to speculate against the local currency rather than to finance genuine business transactions. "This is a time for nation-building, not speculation on the currency," he said.

Mr. Murerwa's austerity package, designed to reduce the deficit by 3.8 billion dollars this year, also included a freeze on 1.1 billion dollars of spending, stepped-up tax-collection efforts and a strong hint of new tax increases.

On Wednesday, the dollar traded at 12.75 to the U.S. dollar, compared with a range of 11 to 12 before Friday.

# Oil Firms Sign Pact With Kazakhstan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ROME — Total SA of France, British Petroleum PLC and Agip SpA of Italy are among seven companies that have signed an oil-exploration accord with Kazakhstan, Agip's parent company, ENI SpA, said Wednesday.

ENI said the seven companies — the others were Royal Dutch/Shell Group, BG PLC of Britain, Statoil A/S of Norway and Mobil Corp. — would each have a 14.3 percent stake in the new venture. The accord covers a 6,000-square-kilometer (2,316-square-mile) tract in the northern Caspian Sea and includes what could be the biggest field in Kazakhstan, ENI said.

ENI said the offshore fields could require investments of more than \$20 billion. A spokesman for BG declined to speculate on the possible

investment level required, saying exploration had not yet started. Mobil said the first well is planned for 1998.

ENI also said it was taking a 32.5 percent stake in a consortium set up to develop Kazakhstan's Karachaganak

fields along with BG PLC. Agip said investment in that field alone could reach \$7 billion over the 40-year lifetime of the project. Texaco Inc. is to have a 20 percent stake in the Karachaganak operation, and AO Lukoil Holding will have 15 percent.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

# Holzmann and Hochtief Team Up in U.S. and Austria

Bloomberg News

FRANKFURT — Philipp Holzmann AG and Hochtief AG, Germany's two largest construction companies, said Wednesday they had agreed to join forces in the United States and Austria as they face objections to closer cooperation in Germany.

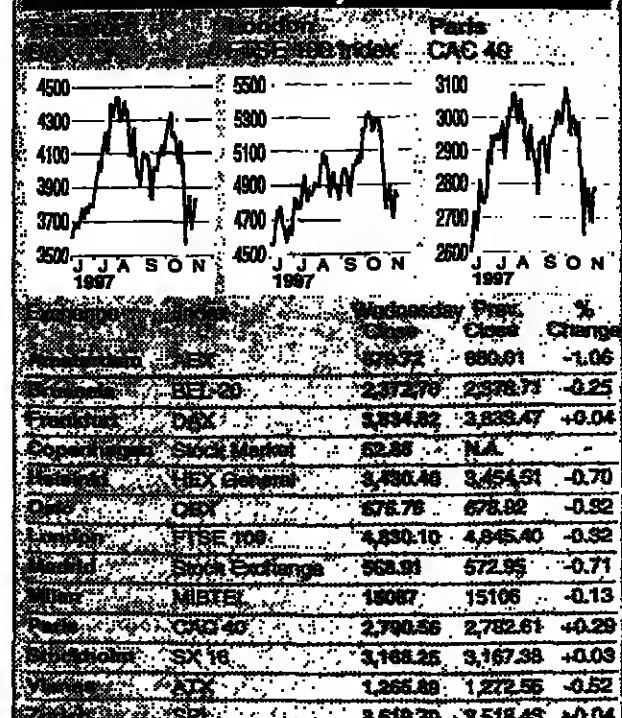
Hochtief will take a 49 percent stake in Holzmann's U.S. operations, J.A. Jones Inc., and will take control of Hochtief's Austrian unit and its construction software units. Regulators rejected Hochtief's proposal to pool its shares in Holzmann with those of Deutsche Bank AG.

# A Pact With Libya

ENI expects to conclude an accord with Libya in the next two to three months that would allow Libyan gas to be exported to Italy, Bloomberg News reported, quoting ENI's managing director, Franco Bernabei.

The accord, due to be signed with Libya's state oil corporation, NOC, would not be implemented until U.S.-sponsored sanctions against investing in Libya were lifted, ENI said. It envisions construction of a pipeline connecting the Libyan coastline to Gela, Sicily.

# Investor's Europe



# Very briefly:

- Western Germany's business confidence unexpectedly dropped in October, according to the Ifo Institute for Economic Research, and the Bundesbank said growth in the M-3 money supply, its main gauge of inflationary pressure, slowed to an annualized 5.1 percent in October from 5.2 percent in September, diminishing expectations that the central bank would raise interest rates in the next few weeks.
- Preussag AG, a German steelmaker, said its net profit rose at least 20 percent in the year that ended Sept. 30, from 274 million Deutsche marks (\$158.5 million) in the previous year.
- Safeway PLC's first-half net profit rose 1.9 percent, to £162.8 million (\$275.8 million), below company expectations. The supermarket operator warned that spending to reverse the "disappointing" earnings would push full-year profit below last year's £159.7 million.
- Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. of Britain and Stena Line AB of Sweden received conditional approval from the British government for their long-delayed plan to merge their English Channel ferry services.
- Wella AG's third-quarter pretax profit rose 31.6 percent, to 30.8 million DM, lifted by strong international demand for its cosmetics and hair-care products.

**TOTAL ALPHA INVESTMENT FUN MANAGEMENT COMPANY S.A.**  
R.C. N° 839 615

On 14th November 1997 the sole shareholder of BZW Nikko U.S. IT Fund having requested redemption of all its shares the Fund ceased to exist with effect from 14th November 1997.

The records and books of the Fund will be kept for a period of 5 years at the office of Nikko Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 16, Boulevard Royal, L-2449 Luxembourg

# WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1997

Prices in U.S. dollars unless noted.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

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# Kuala Lumpur

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# London

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**Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close**  
(Continued)

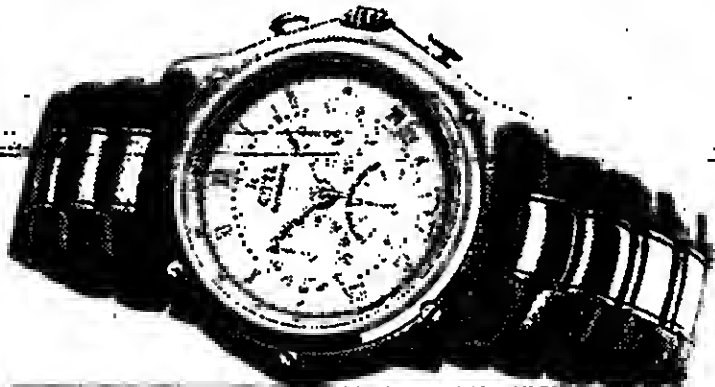
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the architects of time



"le Modulor"  
 in steel with sapphire crystal case back. Automatic chronograph with  
 chronometer certificate. 5 year international warranty.

[illegible][illegible]

| DATE | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | BALANCE |
|------|-------------|--------|---------|
| 1900 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1901 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1902 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1903 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1904 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1905 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1906 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1907 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1908 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1909 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1910 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1911 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1912 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1913 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1914 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1915 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1916 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1917 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1918 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1919 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1920 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1921 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1922 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1923 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1924 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1925 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1926 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1927 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1928 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1929 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1930 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1931 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1932 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1933 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1934 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1935 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1936 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1937 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1938 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1939 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1940 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1941 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1942 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1943 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1944 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1945 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1946 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1947 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1948 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1949 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1950 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1951 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1952 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1953 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1954 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1955 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1956 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1957 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1958 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1959 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1960 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1961 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1962 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1963 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1964 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1965 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1966 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1967 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1968 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1969 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1970 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1971 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1972 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1973 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1974 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1975 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1976 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1977 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1978 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1979 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1980 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1981 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1982 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1983 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1984 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1985 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1986 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1987 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1988 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1989 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1990 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1991 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1992 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |
| 1993 | Jan 1       |        | 100.00  |

| DATE     | TIME  | LOCATION | DESCRIPTION    | AMOUNT | CHECK NO. | DEBIT  | CREDIT | BALANCE |
|----------|-------|----------|----------------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|---------|
| 12-1-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1001      | 100.00 |        | 100.00  |
| 12-2-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1002      | 100.00 |        | 200.00  |
| 12-3-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1003      | 100.00 |        | 300.00  |
| 12-4-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1004      | 100.00 |        | 400.00  |
| 12-5-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1005      | 100.00 |        | 500.00  |
| 12-6-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1006      | 100.00 |        | 600.00  |
| 12-7-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1007      | 100.00 |        | 700.00  |
| 12-8-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1008      | 100.00 |        | 800.00  |
| 12-9-77  | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1009      | 100.00 |        | 900.00  |
| 12-10-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1010      | 100.00 |        | 1000.00 |
| 12-11-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1011      | 100.00 |        | 1100.00 |
| 12-12-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1012      | 100.00 |        | 1200.00 |
| 12-13-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1013      | 100.00 |        | 1300.00 |
| 12-14-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1014      | 100.00 |        | 1400.00 |
| 12-15-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1015      | 100.00 |        | 1500.00 |
| 12-16-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1016      | 100.00 |        | 1600.00 |
| 12-17-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1017      | 100.00 |        | 1700.00 |
| 12-18-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1018      | 100.00 |        | 1800.00 |
| 12-19-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1019      | 100.00 |        | 1900.00 |
| 12-20-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1020      | 100.00 |        | 2000.00 |
| 12-21-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1021      | 100.00 |        | 2100.00 |
| 12-22-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1022      | 100.00 |        | 2200.00 |
| 12-23-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1023      | 100.00 |        | 2300.00 |
| 12-24-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1024      | 100.00 |        | 2400.00 |
| 12-25-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1025      | 100.00 |        | 2500.00 |
| 12-26-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1026      | 100.00 |        | 2600.00 |
| 12-27-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1027      | 100.00 |        | 2700.00 |
| 12-28-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1028      | 100.00 |        | 2800.00 |
| 12-29-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1029      | 100.00 |        | 2900.00 |
| 12-30-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1030      | 100.00 |        | 3000.00 |
| 12-31-77 | 12:00 | ATM      | ATM WITHDRAWAL | 100.00 | 1031      | 100.00 |        | 3100.00 |

150-63-4



ASIA/PACIFIC

## Hong Kong Land Sells High

2 Plots Fetch Surprisingly Strong Prices at Auction

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — Two small plots of Hong Kong land went for surprisingly strong prices Wednesday in the first government auction since the stock market crash last month pulled sky-high property values closer to earth.

An unlisted company, Yu Tai Hing Co., said it had bought the plots, one on the Kowloon Peninsula and the other on the south side of Hong Kong Island, both earmarked for residential use.

The 693-square-meter (7,460-square-foot) plot in Hung Hom, Kowloon, sold for 276 million Hong Kong dollars (\$35.7 million) after an opening bid of 115 million dollars.

"I think it is pretty positive, especially the Hung Hom site," said Serena Lau, managing director at Francis Lau & Co. "It indicates bullishness in the market. I think this message is important."

Dennis Law, a top Yu Tai Hing executive, said the company expected a 30 percent profit from the two properties.

Nicholas Brooke, senior partner at property consultant Brooke Hillier Parker, said the plot prices were at the top end of the range of analysts' expectations.

"There was encouraging, active competition from a number of players," he said. "The property market should react positively to today's outcome."

After the auction, Hong Kong stocks, which are highly sensitive to property market

trends, pared losses for the day by two-thirds, finishing down 90.82 points at 10,154.36.

But some analysts played down the significance of the outcome, saying it did not reflect confidence in the outlook for the territory's property market.

"It is certainly in the higher price end," Howard Gorges, dealing director at South China Brokers, said of the plot prices, "but not on the top."

He said the result did not reflect the true state of the property market at a time of higher interest rates.

Most of the bidders were small developers, with most blue-chip companies conspicuously absent. (Reuters, AFP, APX)

### Singapore Property Stocks Decline

Singapore property stocks fell on sentiment that the government's latest measures to shore up land prices would not be enough to alleviate a current glut in homes, Bloomberg News reported from Singapore.

The exchange's index of 16 property stocks dropped 2.39 points, or 0.58 percent, to 408.50.

Singapore's new rules, announced Tuesday, included a halt in land sales this year and a move to give developers more time to construct their projects.

The measures don't "address the current oversupply," said Ng Yeow Tong of G. K. Goh Research, who predicted that private property prices would still fall by as much as 20 percent over the next 18 months.

## U.S. Agrees to Take Role In Asian Regional Aid Plan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANILA — The United States will participate, on a "case-by-case basis," in a proposed new Asian program to bolster regional economies, the deputy U.S. Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers, said Wednesday.

"We believe in support programs rather than bailouts and in our approach to participate on a case-by-case basis in support programs, based on a judgment of the program in question, the risks of contagion, the adequacy of resources otherwise available and consultation with our partners and allies," Mr. Summers said after a two-day conference on the proposed aid plan.

Deputy finance secretaries from the region agreed Wednesday to work toward setting up a supplemental financing facility to go along with International Monetary Fund assistance to countries hit by economic crises such as the ones now afflicting several Asian countries.

They agreed that the facility would be strongly tied to IMF assistance and that the issue of which countries contributed to it would depend on the situation.

"I think this agreement represents a major step toward putting in place an architecture to prevent financial crises in future and contain problems that occur," Mr. Summers said.

The officials' agreement avoided any reference to earlier proposals that a special regional fund of as much as \$100 billion be created. That plan was strongly opposed by the West, which feared it would remove incentives

for Asian countries to modernize their economies if they knew they could get financial help without having to abide by the IMF's tough lending conditions.

"There are bound to be new crises," said Stanley Fischer, the IMF's first deputy managing director, adding that his organization would continue to lead any further bailouts.

"The first line of financing will be provided by the IMF," he said. "The second line of financing will be provided by other countries."

The IMF has led two bailout packages totaling nearly \$60 billion in the past few weeks, one for Indonesia and one for Thailand, and there is growing concern that South Korea could be the next country to plead for help for its battered economy.

The United States took part in the emergency package designed to help Indonesia cope with the effects of a sharp currency depreciation, but it did not participate in the similar package for Thailand.

Mr. Summers said it was crucial that the new assistance facility, to be designed at a meeting in Japan next year, balance the needs to prevent future crises and to address crises as they occur. He also said the United States remained optimistic that Asian nations affected by the region's current financial crisis would eventually recover, citing their high savings rates, youthful work forces, entrepreneurial skills and the export orientation of their economies. (AFP, Reuters, WP)

### Investor's Asia

| Hong Kong Hang Seng       | Singapore Straits Times | Tokyo Nikkei 225  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 16500                     | 2150                    | 21500             |
| 15000                     | 2000                    | 20000             |
| 13500                     | 1850                    | 18500             |
| 12000                     | 1700                    | 17000             |
| 10500                     | 1550                    | 15500             |
| 9000                      | 1400                    | 14000             |
| 1997                      | 1997                    | 1997              |
| Exchange                  | Index                   | Wednesday Prev. % |
| Hong Kong Hang Seng       | 10,154.36               | 10,245.18 -0.89   |
| Singapore Straits Times   | 1,680.97                | 1,689.01 -0.48    |
| Sydney All Ordinaries     | 2,442.30                | 2,468.30 -1.05    |
| Tokyo Nikkei 225          | 15,842.46               | 16,728.57 -5.29   |
| Kuala Lumpur Composite    | 603.49                  | 622.09 -2.99      |
| Bangkok SET               | 434.37                  | 440.13 -1.31      |
| Seoul Composite Index     | 502.59                  | 494.66 +1.60      |
| Taipei Stock Market Index | 7,705.40                | 7,644.97 +0.79    |
| Manila PSE                | 1,872.00                | 1,877.76 -0.31    |
| Jakarta Composite Index   | 415.65                  | 434.21 -4.27      |
| Wellington NZSE-40        | 2,367.45                | 2,384.55 -0.72    |
| Bombay Sensitive Index    | 3,454.85                | 3,518.90 -1.83    |

Source: Reuters International Herald Tribune

### Very briefly:

• Tata Tea Ltd., the world's biggest tea company, said its first-half profit rose 43 percent, to 503.1 million Indian rupees (\$13.5 million) as a drought in Kenya, the world's largest producer, bolstered prices. Sales rose 42 percent, to 4.47 billion rupees.

• Chioia International Trust & Investment Corp. is studying the possibility of acquiring a heavily indebted Japanese-owned department store, Yaohao Hongkong Corp.

• Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.'s second-half profit dropped 31 percent, to 409 million Australian dollars (\$284.7 million) as the company took a one-time loss of 1.47 million dollars to cut staff and set aside an additional 417 million dollars to cover further firings.

• Ultronic International Holdings Ltd., which sells medical equipment, said it would pay 150 million Hong Kong dollars (\$19.4 million) for two medical practices to develop Hong Kong's first publicly traded health care business.

• Singapore said the amount of taxes collected on the causeway between Singapore and Malaysia rose 44 percent in October as business traffic increased. But officials say Singapore stands to lose revenue as an increasing number of consumers flock to Malaysia on tax-free shopping sprees to take advantage of the weak ringgit. (Bloomberg, AFP)

### Chief Talks of Buying Up Renong

KUALA LUMPUR — The chairman of Renong Bhd., Halim Saad, said Wednesday that he might consider taking the Malaysian conglomerate private if its shares extend their decline. "That's a possibility if Renong's price falls further," Mr. Halim said, adding that United Engineers Malaysia Bhd. and he "can gang up and buy more shares." Renong's stock finished at 1.90 ringgit, down 0.41, and United Engineers shares fell 0.50 to 3.36, continuing their plunge and pulling down other stocks. Investors object to UEM's purchase of 32.6 percent of its parent, Renong, for 2.34 billion ringgit (\$686.6 million).

## Lender Chides Jakarta Over Utility

Bloomberg News

JAKARTA — Just four days after lining up behind a \$23 billion aid package intended to be a vote of confidence in Indonesia at the end of last month, the World Bank's director for the country, Dennis de Tray, privately sent a very different message to the government.

In a letter to the minister of mines and energy, I.B. Sudjana, dated Nov. 3, Mr. de Tray warned that continued mismanagement of the electricity company Perusahaan Umum Listrik Negara could cause lending authorities such as the bank and the International Monetary Fund to suspend agreements with that company. PLN, with \$22 billion in assets, is Indonesia's largest state-owned company and its monopoly power distributor.

Mr. de Tray's letter cited concerns that the electric company, under government instructions, was set to sign a contract committing it to buy electricity from a new private power producer, even while demand for power is slackening, supply is high and PLN is strapped for cash.

The announcement of another power-purchase agreement at a time when PLN's poor financial situation is already in the news and when government has just committed to increased transparency would, in our opinion, send a negative signal to the financial markets," Mr. de Tray wrote.

The letter did not identify the private power producer. But analysts said it was likely to be a project backed by relatives of President Suharto, at least seven of whom are involved in the power-development business.

Mr. de Tray's letter, a copy of which was provided by a government official, sheds light on the kind of inefficient investment that has hurt Indonesia's international image and continues to stand in the way of reform.

Mr. de Tray was out of the country and could not be reached immediately for comment. An official at the World Bank's Jakarta office declined to comment.

In the letter, Mr. de Tray wrote that allowing the electricity company to sign a power-purchase agreement could cause the World Bank to pull out of a planned loan to the Java Power Distribution Project, which is to build a power-transmission network across the island. Generating capacity in Indonesia has been growing faster than the supply of power-cable networks.

### NYSE

#### Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

| 12 Month High | Low | Stock       | Div Yld | PE   | 100 High | Low | 100 High | Low | Change |
|---------------|-----|-------------|---------|------|----------|-----|----------|-----|--------|
| 100           | 100 | IBM         | 4.0     | 12.5 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Microsoft   | 0.0     | 15.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Apple       | 0.0     | 10.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Oracle      | 0.0     | 12.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Sun         | 0.0     | 11.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Lucent      | 0.0     | 13.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Motorola    | 0.0     | 14.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Qualcomm    | 0.0     | 16.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Verizon     | 0.0     | 17.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | WorldCom    | 0.0     | 18.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Sprint      | 0.0     | 19.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | AT&T        | 0.0     | 20.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Time Warner | 0.0     | 21.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Home Depot  | 0.0     | 22.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0     | 23.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0     | 24.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Target      | 0.0     | 25.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0     | 26.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Costco      | 0.0     | 27.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0     | 28.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0     | 29.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0     | 30.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | CVS         | 0.0     | 31.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0     | 32.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Target      | 0.0     | 33.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0     | 34.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0     | 35.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Costco      | 0.0     | 36.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0     | 37.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0     | 38.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0     | 39.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | CVS         | 0.0     | 40.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0     | 41.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Target      | 0.0     | 42.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0     | 43.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0     | 44.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Costco      | 0.0     | 45.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0     | 46.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0     | 47.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0     | 48.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | CVS         | 0.0     | 49.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100           | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0     | 50.0 | 100      | 100 | 100      | 100 | 0      |

| 12 Month | High | Low | Stock       | Div | Yld   | PE    | 100 High | Low | Change |
|----------|------|-----|-------------|-----|-------|-------|----------|-----|--------|
| 100      | 100  | 100 | IBM         | 4.0 | 12.5  | 12.5  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Microsoft   | 0.0 | 15.0  | 15.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Apple       | 0.0 | 10.0  | 10.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Oracle      | 0.0 | 12.0  | 12.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sun         | 0.0 | 11.0  | 11.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Lucent      | 0.0 | 13.0  | 13.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Motorola    | 0.0 | 14.0  | 14.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Qualcomm    | 0.0 | 16.0  | 16.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Verizon     | 0.0 | 17.0  | 17.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | WorldCom    | 0.0 | 18.0  | 18.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sprint      | 0.0 | 19.0  | 19.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | AT&T        | 0.0 | 20.0  | 20.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Time Warner | 0.0 | 21.0  | 21.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Home Depot  | 0.0 | 22.0  | 22.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 23.0  | 23.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 24.0  | 24.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 25.0  | 25.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 26.0  | 26.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 27.0  | 27.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 28.0  | 28.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 29.0  | 29.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 30.0  | 30.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 31.0  | 31.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 32.0  | 32.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 33.0  | 33.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 34.0  | 34.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 35.0  | 35.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 36.0  | 36.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 37.0  | 37.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 38.0  | 38.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 39.0  | 39.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 40.0  | 40.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 41.0  | 41.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 42.0  | 42.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 43.0  | 43.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 44.0  | 44.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 45.0  | 45.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 46.0  | 46.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 47.0  | 47.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 48.0  | 48.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 49.0  | 49.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 50.0  | 50.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 51.0  | 51.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 52.0  | 52.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 53.0  | 53.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 54.0  | 54.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 55.0  | 55.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 56.0  | 56.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 57.0  | 57.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 58.0  | 58.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 59.0  | 59.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 60.0  | 60.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 61.0  | 61.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 62.0  | 62.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 63.0  | 63.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 64.0  | 64.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 65.0  | 65.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 66.0  | 66.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 67.0  | 67.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 68.0  | 68.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 69.0  | 69.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 70.0  | 70.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 71.0  | 71.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 72.0  | 72.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 73.0  | 73.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 74.0  | 74.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 75.0  | 75.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 76.0  | 76.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 77.0  | 77.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 78.0  | 78.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 79.0  | 79.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 80.0  | 80.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 81.0  | 81.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 82.0  | 82.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 83.0  | 83.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 84.0  | 84.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 85.0  | 85.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 86.0  | 86.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 87.0  | 87.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 88.0  | 88.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 89.0  | 89.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 90.0  | 90.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 91.0  | 91.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kmart       | 0.0 | 92.0  | 92.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walgreens   | 0.0 | 93.0  | 93.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | CVS         | 0.0 | 94.0  | 94.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Wal-Mart    | 0.0 | 95.0  | 95.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Target      | 0.0 | 96.0  | 96.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Kroger      | 0.0 | 97.0  | 97.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Walmart     | 0.0 | 98.0  | 98.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Costco      | 0.0 | 99.0  | 99.0  | 100      | 100 | 0      |
| 100      | 100  | 100 | Sam's Club  | 0.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100      | 100 | 0      |



## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Goodyear Pulls Out

**FORMULA ONE** Goodyear, the American tire maker, will pull out of Formula One motor racing at the end of the 1998 Grand Prix season, a company representative said Wednesday.

The spokesman said the escalating costs of Formula One, particularly next year, when grooved tires are introduced, was a reason behind the surprise decision.

Goodyear has been in Formula One since 1965, winning 361 races. Drivers on Goodyear tires won 25 drivers' titles.

The company will continue to supply other motor sports, including the CART World Series, the Indy Racing League, NASCAR and SportsCars. (Reuters)



West Indies captain Courtney Walsh bowling to Inzamam.

### West Indies Fielders Fail

**CRICKET** West Indies fielders dropped five potential catches off the Pakistani batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq on Wednesday as Inzamam made 92 to help Pakistan tighten its grip on the first test in Peshawar. Inzamam ran out of partners with the total on 381. The West Indies, trailing by 230 on the first innings, reached 99 runs for two wickets at the close of the third day.

Marvan Atapattu made 108 Wednesday as Sri Lanka reached 280 runs for four wickets on the first day of the first test against India in Mohali, India. (Reuters)

### Lomu Back in the Black

**RUGBY UNION** Jonah Lomu was recalled to the New Zealand team after a 15-month absence for first test against England on Saturday. Lomu, who has been ill with a kidney disease, replaces Glen Osborne on the left wing. (Reuters)

# Men's Tennis Says It's Very Sorry

## ATP Tour Promises to Reinvent Itself - as a Much Richer Sport

By Ian Thomsen  
International Herald Tribune

**THE FIRST** step toward world domination, as far as men's tennis is concerned, is simple. The sport is saying sorry to its fans.

The ATP Tour, which represents world No. 1 Pete Sampras and all of his competitors, is admitting to its audience: We haven't appealed to your needs. You want to follow us, to know more about us, and we have been making it too difficult.

The ATP Tour has announced plans for a spectator-friendly circuit. Starting in the year 2000, it will scrap the unfathomable computer rankings for a system that will be easier to follow from week to week. Furthermore, all of the top players will be forced to gather 12 times a year and play each other for the pleasure of the worldwide audience.

Other improvements are being negotiated, promises Mark Miles, the chief executive of the ATP Tour.

Over the coming year, Miles will try to negotiate profit sharing with the players and tournament directors, mend relationships with at least three rival organizations and, he hopes, convince a truckload of new international sponsors and TV networks to pay for it all. As the Tour is streamlined, some important tournaments — in Monte Carlo and Cincinnati, perhaps — will have to be sacrificed.

The goal is to adapt for the fragmenting television market, for the arrival of digital TV, with its promise of thousands of channels, and for the days when every TV set is linked to the Internet.

The programs which draw the largest audiences — uniting the world through TV circuits — are likely to be live-breaking news and sports events. Tennis is anticipating a media earthquake and is positioning itself for the aftermath.

"All businesses, and certainly all sports, have to be dynamic these days," said Miles, 43, who in another life managed the successful 1980 Indiana senatorial campaign of Dan Quayle.

Anyone who can get Quayle elected to anything has to be considered an expert in politics, but Miles was surprised last March when his ambitions for the sport were met with an outcry in Europe. European players and tournament directors

felt they hadn't been consulted, that this American "vision" was going to be stuffed down their throats like so many Steven Spielberg movies. The rules were quickly rewritten to put a retired European player, David Felgate, on the six-man ATP Tour Board of Directors.

In July the European players elected themselves to a majority position on the nine-man Players Council. Thomas Muster of Austria represents players in the Top 10. Tim Henman of Britain works for players ranked from No. 11 to No. 25, and Magnus Larsson of Sweden for those from No. 26 to No. 50.

The players have also agreed to be more accessible for clinics with children, charity work and media interviews. Until now the Tour has never been organized well enough to demand a public-relations standard for its players.

"Generally, in other sports players are putting a little bit more back into the game," Henman said. "Players have to realize that this is our responsibility, our livelihood."

**THE TOUR** leaders have been openly admitting their faults because it's the only way to convince the players and tournaments to accept a streamlined tour.

"We're doing it with a little reluctance," said Larry Scott, the tour's chief operating officer. "It does put pressure on us to deliver. If we talk about our problems and ways to address them and then we can't deliver it, we're setting ourselves up for failure."

The makeup of the new Tour is still in doubt. The board ruled last weekend that the four Grand Slam tournaments — Wimbledon, the Australian, French and US Opens — will become mandatory events for the world's top players, along with seven ATP Tour events. This means that two tournaments in the Tour's current "Super Nine" series will have to be downgraded.

"I understand the concept of 'less is more,'" said Patrice Dominguez, co-director of the Monte Carlo tournament in April, which finds itself competing with the Italian Open in Rome and the German Open in Hamburg to become one of the two European clay-court tournaments on the revised calendar. "Tennis needs to evolve, but it is time to

reduce the number of bad tournaments, not the good ones."

Dominguez pointed out that the top seven series will be based entirely in Europe and the United States, ignoring Asia, South America and Africa.

"We would like to have had one of these events in Asia," Miles said. He said the ATP Tour World Championship, currently held at the end of year in Germany, could visit the lucrative Asian market in 2000, when it will begin to move to a different bidding city each year.

Miles is hoping that negotiations will result in the rival Grand Slam Cup merging with his World Championship. Negotiations are underway with the women's tour, the WTA, to add women's tournaments to the main men's events. Currently women and men share courts at the four Grand Slams and the Lipton in Florida.

The partnership of women and men would further simplify tennis for the world at large, and potentially increase the marketing value for both tours — the driving engine behind the plan. Currently the top tournaments negotiate their own sponsorships and TV deals. If Miles has his way, the Tour — or tours — will negotiate rights on behalf of those tournaments, leading potentially to a single marketing strategy, a higher standardized level of TV coverage, and more profit for all.

This year the ATP Tour was associated with 79 professional tournaments around the world. The majority were televised internationally, creating a glut which only the most expert fan could penetrate. This decentralized system, Miles predicts, means ATP Tour events will earn only \$100 million from the 1999 worldwide TV rights — a pittance in today's billion-dollar marketplace.

"All of this is a good start," said Dr. Joachim Schmidt, senior vice president of sales and marketing at Mercedes, which has sponsored the ATP Tour's "Super Nine" events since the series started last year. They have a lot of negotiating to do with the other parties, but I believe the seven tournaments will become much more popular than the Super Nine are now. Within the next month we will start negotiating. We think it should be a 'Mercedes Super Seven' series."



**PARTING SHOT** — Andre Agassi returning the ball to Iva Majoli in the first round of the season-ending Chase Championships in New York. Majoli beat Agassi, 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-2). Martina Hingis beat Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who retired because of a broken toenail, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4. In other matches, Jana Novotna beat Conchita Martinez, 6-4, 6-4.

## Manager, Citing 'Pride,' Quits Tottenham Hotspur

**Tottenham Hotspur**, the English Premier League club, held an unusual news conference Wednesday.

The club plans another on Thursday to introduce its new manager, Christian Gross, now with the Swiss club Grasshoppers. On Wednesday, it

### World Soccer

was the turn of the manager, Gerry Francis, to talk, with the club chairman, Alan Sugar, sitting beside him.

"It is an honor to manage a club like Tottenham," Francis said. "But there comes a time when your own personal pride makes you go to the chairman and ask him what he thinks. I felt it would give the players a bit of a release if I resigned."

Francis's advice for Gross: "Managing Tottenham is a difficult job. In many ways it is quite a political club; it is a big club potentially but league results don't always show it, and they have not won the title for 36 years.

Sugar appeared genuinely upset that Francis was leaving, saying: "Gerry is no quitter. He just believes it is not possible for him to be here because of the growing effect of a media campaign."

Michael Owen, 17, scored a hat-trick in a 3-0 victory over the Second Division Grimsby to put Liverpool into the English League Cup quarterfinals. Reading, of the First Division, eliminated Leeds of the Premier League, 3-2. Trevor Morley scored the winning goal with five minutes left.

**GERMANY** Borussia Dortmund, the European champion, beat Wolfsburg, 2-1, in the Bundesliga but was booed by its fans. The victory lifted Dortmund to 10th position, 15 points behind the leader, Kaiserslautern.

**United States** Angry at not being selected to stage a marquee event for the 1999 Women's World Cup, officials at RPK Stadium in Washington, D.C., have informed the cup's organizers that they will not take part in the games. (WP, Reuters)

# No. 1 Sampras Has Nothing to Lose

International Herald Tribune

Perhaps the worst indictment of the ATP Tour's need for change is the predicament of Pete Sampras.

Sampras, 26, has been the world's No. 1 for each of the last five years. Last weekend his tour elected him the top player of its first 25 years.

Yet, whenever the problems of men's tennis are mentioned, Sampras usually absorbs some of the blame for not being colorful enough, for not showing his emotions. It may be proved in 2000, when tennis's first true "pennant race" is under way, that Sampras has been a victim of his sport's poor structure. If Sampras isn't appreciated, it's probably because few fans are able to follow him through the regular season.

His ranking is based on his 14 best results over the year, which a computer then compares against his performances of the year before. He won eight tournaments this year and 13 of his 14

matches against Top 10 opponents, but for the world at large Sampras comes into view at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open.

The new ranking system, beginning in 2000, will force the best to play in the four Grand Slams and the ATP Tour's seven top events. The rankings will be simplified. Players will start at zero points in January. The one with the most points at the end of the year will be No. 1.

Players will be penalized financially — from their year-ending bonus — as well as in their ranking, if they avoid the best competition, a practice invited by the current system.

"Obviously it's not an easy thing to understand for the general public," said Tim Henman of Britain, a representative on the ATP Tour Players Council. "I won the tournament in Tashkent and my ranking didn't move. I stayed 20 in the world. For a vast majority of this year, Stefan Edberg was ranked in the top 100 — people are going to look at

that and ask, how is that possible?"

"When I have a bad loss, it doesn't necessarily jeopardize my ranking to any extent. That's where players understand there is a need for change. To be honest, I don't get involved in any of this."

Why should he? The new system has been designed to emulate his strategy of saving his best for the top tournaments. In three years, his talents may be put into better perspective.

And if none of these changes were being implemented?

"The game would continue to be very exciting, the standards would be high," Henman said. "But other sports, which are our competitors, would be moving on. However good the play was on our tour, tennis would be left behind to some extent."

Sampras would continue to lose against Michael Jordan and Ronaldo.

Ian Thomsen

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### NBA STANDINGS

| EASTERN CONFERENCE |    |   |       |
|--------------------|----|---|-------|
| Team               | W  | L | Pct   |
| Atlanta            | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Charlotte          | 5  | 3 | .625  |
| Chicago            | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Indiana            | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Orlando            | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Washington         | 4  | 4 | .500  |
| Philadelphia       | 2  | 6 | .250  |
| CENTRAL CONFERENCE |    |   |       |
| Team               | W  | L | Pct   |
| Minnesota          | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Antonio        | 5  | 3 | .625  |
| Phoenix            | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Portland           | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Utah               | 5  | 3 | .625  |
| Memphis            | 4  | 4 | .500  |
| San Jose           | 4  | 4 | .500  |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE |    |   |       |
| Team               | W  | L | Pct   |
| Los Angeles        | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Portland           | 5  | 3 | .625  |
| Phoenix            | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| San Antonio        | 6  | 2 | .750  |
| Seattle            | 7  | 3 | .700  |
| Sacramento         | 2  | 7 | .222  |
| Golden State       | 0  | 8 | .000  |

### ICE HOCKEY

#### NHL STANDINGS

| EASTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |   |
|--------------------|----|----|---|
| Team               | W  | L  | T |
| New York           | 13 | 5  | 3 |
| Philadelphia       | 12 | 7  | 3 |
| Washington         | 12 | 7  | 3 |
| N.Y. Rangers       | 7  | 7  | 2 |
| Florida            | 6  | 10 | 4 |
| Tampa Bay          | 2  | 14 | 2 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE |    |    |   |
| Team               | W  | L  | T |
| St. Louis          | 14 | 5  | 3 |
| San Jose           | 11 | 2  | 5 |
| Edmonton           | 9  | 9  | 2 |
| Pittsburgh         | 9  | 9  | 2 |
| Colorado           | 8  | 10 | 3 |
| Calgary            | 4  | 12 | 2 |

### TRANSITIONS

#### BASEBALL

| AMERICAN LEAGUE |    |   |       |
|-----------------|----|---|-------|
| Team            | W  | L | Pct   |
| Seattle         | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Minnesota       | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Los Angeles     | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Diego       | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Chicago         | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Francisco   | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Seattle         | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| NATIONAL LEAGUE |    |   |       |
| Team            | W  | L | Pct   |
| Atlanta         | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Diego       | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| Los Angeles     | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Francisco   | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Diego       | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |
| San Francisco   | 11 | 0 | 1.000 |

### CRICKET

#### INDIA VS. SRI LANKA

First Test, 1st Day  
Sri Lanka 29-4

### GOLF

#### GRAND SLAM

| Player         | Score           |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Greg Norman    | 65-70-73-71=279 |
| Tommy Lasorda  | 66-70-73-71=279 |
| Justin Leonard | 67-70-73-71=279 |

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SPORTS

# Capitals Tie Avalanche In a Seesaw Shootout

**The Associated Press**  
Although players on both sides kept talking about how much they enjoyed a 6-6 tie, Washington goalie Bill Ranford was not among them.

## NHL ROUNDOUP

Ranford was an improvement. "The last three games I've played, I've lost, so it's a starting point."

Ranford, coming back from injury, has won only once in six starts this season. He finished with 31 saves and made a number of difficult stops against visiting Colorado Avalanche, but Claude Lemieux scored three times against him and also assisted on two other goals.

Both Peter Forsberg and Valeri Kamensky had a goal and three assists for Colorado. Neither Forsberg nor Lemieux had scored a goal in more than a month. The Avalanche also ended an 11-for-28 drought on the power play by scoring twice with a man advantage.

Peter Bondra led the Capitals with two goals and an assist in the seesaw contest, and Chris Simon added a goal and an assist. Bondra's power-play goal with 5:04 left tied the game at 6.

Players from both teams talked about how much they enjoyed the shootout.

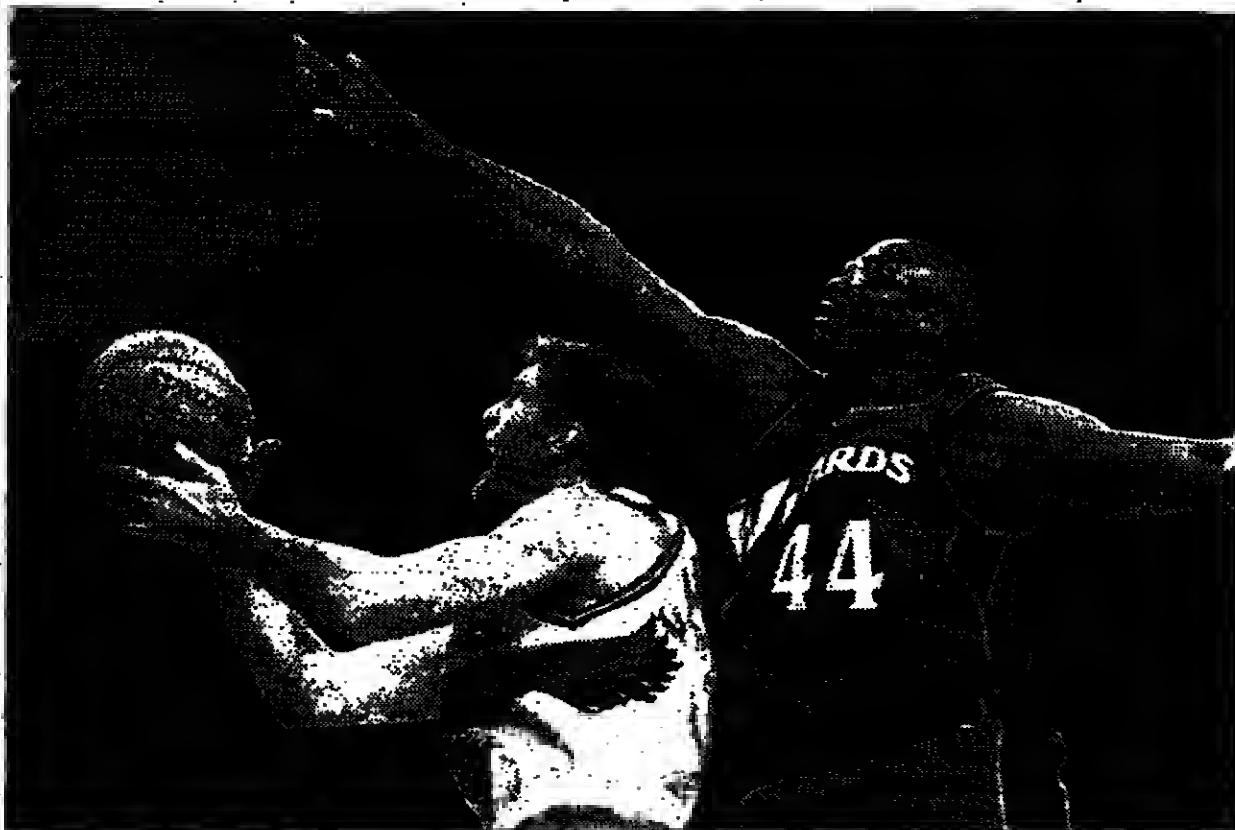
"We just kept going," Bondra said. "We kept fighting and getting through to put the puck in the net."

Both coaches said they liked how their teams fought in the game.

**Devils 2, Flames 1** New Jersey won its seventh straight game and the 11th straight for goalie Martin Brodeur by beating hapless Calgary. Brodeur needed only 11 saves as the Devils outshot the Flames by 41-12.

**Rangers 3, Panthers 1** Pat LaFontaine had a goal and an assist, and Mike Richter made 30 saves as New York beat Florida to start a road trip.

**Sharks 4, Mighty Ducks 2** Jeff Friesen and Patrick Marleau scored two goals each for San Jose against Anaheim, as the Sharks ended a three-game losing streak.



Atlanta Hawks forward Christian Laettner driving to the hoop as Harvey Grant of the Wizards defends.

# Hawks and Lakers Win With Authority

**The Associated Press**  
The Atlanta Hawks and Los Angeles Lakers are still undefeated because both teams know how to finish with a flurry.

The Hawks improved their record to 11-0 Tuesday night by holding Washington scoreless in overtime as they beat the Wizards, 98-89.

The Lakers, meanwhile, had a much more dramatic finish to improve to 9-0 as Kobe Bryant blocked a 3-point attempt by Bryon Russell and went in for a buzzer-beating windmill dunk to cap a 97-92 victory at Utah.

"He certainly had better composure than I did," said Del Harris, the Lakers coach, who jumped up and down and pumped his fist at the Utah crowd after the game.

The Lakers' win snapped a three-game winning streak for the Jazz. Utah had beaten the Lakers eight straight times in Salt Lake City, including three victories in last season's Western Conference semifinals.

With four seconds left and the Lakers up 95-92, Russell took an inbounds pass

and squared up from 25 feet. But the ball was swatted to midcourt by Bryant, who then scooped it up and dunked with six-tenths of a second to play.

"I wanted to come out and make a statement," Bryant said. "I didn't want to dribble that last ball off my foot."

"I think we gave one away," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "They got every

## NBA ROUNDOUP

loose basketball." The Lakers also got every fourth-quarter free throw. They shot 14 free throws in the quarter; the Jazz shot one. "I won't comment," on the officiating, Sloan said.

**Hawks 98, Wizards 89** In Atlanta, Christian Laettner and Mookie Blaylock scored 24 points apiece, and rookie Ed Gray scored seven points in overtime when the Hawks outscored Washington, 9-0.

"It was two games," said Gray, who scored 14 points. "They won the first three periods, but we won the fourth and the OT."

**Rockets 85, Knicks 84** In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon found his shooting touch and scored 24 points, and Muttie Malone finished one shy of his career high with 23.

Olajuwon, who entered the game averaging only 14.1 points, put Houston ahead for good on two free throws with 4:31 to play. Houston snapped its four-game losing streak and ended New York's three-game victory streak.

**Timberwolves 108, Suns 80** Stephen Marbury scored 11 of his 23 points in the final 5:13 as Minnesota used a late 15-0 surge to win in Phoenix.

Kevin Garnett led the Timberwolves with 26 points, and Tom Gugliotta added 20 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists.

**Bucks 87, Pistons 79** In Milwaukee, the Bucks led just 31-29 at the half, and the combined 60 points was only two more than the NBA record low of 58 scored by Syracuse and Fort Wayne on Jan. 25, 1955. Detroit coach Doug Collins described his club as "awful."

**Celtics 122, Raptors 109** Dee Brown went 4-of-4 from three-point range in the first half as Boston built a 23-point lead and cruised to victory in Toronto. It was the Celtics' fourth straight victory.

John Wallace scored a career-high 30 points with 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who looked sluggish and uninterested in the wake of an announcement by general manager Isiah Thomas that he was thinking of leaving the club for a broadcasting job at NBC, the U.S. TV network.

**Magic 112, Clippers 94** In Orlando, Mark Price snapped out of a shooting slump and hit 10 of 13 shots and scored 23 points as the Magic beat Los Angeles.

**Grizzlies 100, Nuggets 87** Blue Edwards scored 27 points, and Shaq Abdul-Rahim added 18 as Vancouver won its first road game this season. It was the fifth victory of the season for the Grizzlies, who didn't win that many last year until Dec. 17. Denver lost for a franchise-record ninth time to start the season.

**Kings 102, Mavericks 85** In Sacramento, A.C. Green tied the NBA record by playing in his 906th consecutive game, but his team lost its seventh straight.

# The Hot-Stove League Has a Smokin' Session

## Arizona and Tampa Stock Rosters; Tempest of Trades Moves 31 Players

**Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches**

**PHOENIX** — While name after virtually unrecognizable name went up on the Arizona and Tampa Bay roster boards in baseball's expansion draft, six well-known names — including Devon White and Robb Nen of the dismantling Florida Marlins — were traded in an unprecedented flurry of deals.

When the weeklong moratorium on trades was lifted as soon as the draft ended, 31 players switched teams on Tuesday night in 13 simultaneous

## BASEBALL EXPANSION DRAFT

trades. "It was a great moment for baseball," said Joe Garagiola Jr., general manager of the expansion Arizona Diamondbacks. "This is the kind of activity we used to have at the old winter meetings that the fans love."

After seven tedious hours in which the two expansion clubs shunned stars for no-names, teams rushed the podium to announce their deals.

"It was a thrill to be involved in the situation tonight," said Chuck LaMar, general manager of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. "We had some scenario with every team during the week, or almost every team."

The trades included:

• The Marlins, seeking to slash their payroll, traded White, their center fielder, who has a \$3.5 million salary for next season, to the Diamondbacks for Jesus Martinez, younger brother of Pedro and Ramon Martinez. Ramon was selected from Los Angeles in the third and last round of the draft.

• The Marlins also traded their closer, Nen, to the San Francisco Giants.

• The Montreal Expos traded Pedro Martinez, the National League Cy Young award winner, to the Boston Red Sox for Carl Pavano, a prized minor-league pitcher, and a player to be named later.

• The Detroit Tigers traded Travis Fryman, their third baseman with a \$6.5 million salary next season, to the Diamondbacks for three players they selected in the draft — third basemen Joe Randa and Gabe Alvarez, and the pitcher Matt Drews.

• The Expos traded Mike Lansing, their second baseman, to the Colorado Rockies for three minor-league players. The deal nearly fell through because Bryan Rekar, a pitcher who was supposed to be in the trade, was drafted in the second round by Tampa Bay.

• The Devil Rays acquired first baseman Fred McGriff from Atlanta for a player to be named. The Devil Rays also announced the signing of Roberto Hernandez, a free-agent relief pitcher, who played for the Chicago White Sox and the Giants this past season.

In all, 10 trades were made involving 28 players and three other trades were completed involving a player to be named later. One deal involved two players who were drafted from Cincinnati, then sent back to the Reds.

"This is an indication of what can happen when you put baseball people together," said Roland Hemond, one of the Diamondbacks' vice presidents. "This is the kind of hot-stove action we've got to revive."

The Devil Rays traded four of the 35

players they drafted and the Diamondbacks moved three. Both expansion teams went heavily for young players.

The Devil Rays' first pick, and the first pick overall, was one of the Marlins' pitchers, Tony Saunders. The Diamondbacks also picked a pitcher first, Cleveland's Brian Anderson. Anderson said he wouldn't waste any time adding to his six tattoos. "I'm heading down to Bob's Tattoos and I'm going to get a big 'A' put in the middle of my back," he said. "I'm going to make sure I get the exact logo down right."

Arizona's third pick was Alvarez, a 23-year-old third baseman from the San Diego Padres. Alvarez, a native of Mexico, is a three-year minor leaguer. He was taken in the 1995 amateur draft by the Padres, whose general manager at the time was Randy Smith, who is now the Tigers' general manager. Alvarez was reunited with Smith immediately after the draft.

The Tigers are a developing young team, and Alvarez, who batted .300 at Class AA Mobile last season, should fit right in.

Acquiring Fryman gave the expansion team a veteran — and expensive — left side of the infield. The Diamondbacks signed shortstop Jay Bell as a free agent on Monday, giving him \$34 million over five years.

In acquiring White, the Diamondbacks sent Jesus Martinez to the Marlins, meaning the youngest of the Martinez brothers had been the property of three teams within the span of about an hour.

In exchange for Nen, the Giants dispatched three pitching prospects to Florida: Mike Vilano, Joe Fontenot and Mick Pageler.

"We're going back to Florida and regroup, but we expect to make more trades," said Dave Dombrowski, the Marlins' general manager.

In San Francisco, Nen will be the Giants' closer, replacing Rod Beck and Roberto Hernandez. Beck, a free agent, may sign soon with the Diamondbacks. Hernandez, also free, was signed to a four-year, \$22.5 million contract by the Devil Rays on Tuesday night.

The deal for Pedro Martinez between the Expos and the Red Sox had been made earlier in the week. Then, Martinez's agent reportedly told the Expos that the pitcher, who can be a free agent a year from now, would not sign a multiyear contract with the Red Sox.

The Expos received two more pitchers, Jake Westbrook and John Nicholson, and outfielder Mike Hamlin from Colorado for Lansing.

Jim Beattie, the Expos' general manager, said the moves were "dictated by the economics of the time." Martinez and Lansing are eligible for free agency after the 1998 season.

"We do not intend to win next year," Beattie said. "We're building a championship club for 2001 when we hope to move into a new stadium."

LaMar, the Tampa Bay general manager, said he was extremely pleased with the draft and his team's ensuing acquisitions. "We went after guys we think have a chance to become good players in the future, and we needed to surround them with a couple of established players." (NYT, LAT, AP)



Tiger Woods blasting out of a bunker at the 14th hole in Hawaii.

# Els Snatches PGA Grand Slam

**By Jack Cavanaugh**  
*New York Times Service*

**KOLOA, Hawaii** — Maybe it was all the travel. Maybe it was the cold he picked up during a lucrative series of skins games and other events in Japan. Maybe it was the play of Ernie Els.

Everything seemed to catch up with Tiger Woods on Tuesday in the second and final round of the \$1 million MasterCard PGA Grand Slam, an event Woods led by two strokes after a six-under-par 66 Monday.

Els, a South African, passed Woods on the seventh hole Tuesday en route to a 65 and a three-stroke victory at the sodden Poipu Bay Resort Golf Course on the island of Kauai.

Els, who won his second U.S. Open championship in June, finished at a tournament-record 11-under-par 133. That earned him \$400,000 in an event

for the winners of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Woods, the Masters champion, shot a 70, ended up at 136 and collected \$250,000.

Davis Love 3d, the PGA titleist, carded a 67 to finish at 138 (\$200,000), and Justin Leonard, the British Open champion, had a closing par-72 for 149 and \$150,000.

Though he did not use it as an excuse, Woods said "there was a little tiredness" following not only a long 1997 schedule that earned him first place in earnings and Player of the Year honors, but also a trip to Japan. "I didn't space my schedule as well as I should have," he said, "and there was wear and tear on my body."

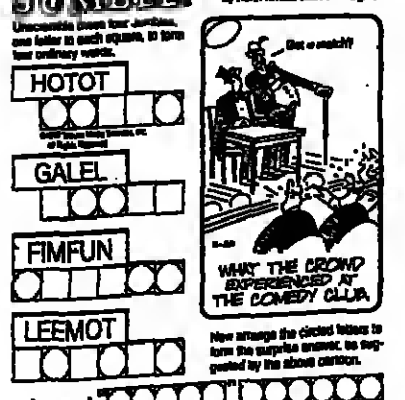
Els said he was well-rested after having taken two weeks off after the Tour Championship this month. "I finished 26th out of 30 players, so I thought I needed a rest," he said.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



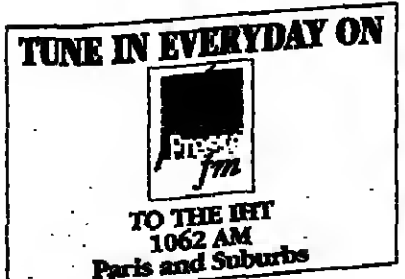
"HOW COME WHEN I USE MY CRAYONS IN MY COLORING BOOK, YOU CALL IT BOBBY? BUT WHEN I DECORATE THE WALLS, IT'S CALLED DEEP THOUGHTS?"

## JUNIEBLES



Answer: A

## TUNE IN EVERYDAY ON



## PEANUTS



## GARFIELD



## BEEBLE BAILEY



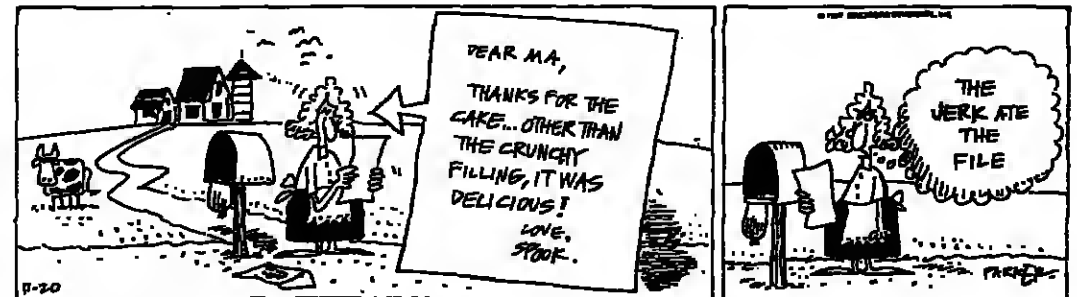
## BLONDIE



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## ART BUCHWALD

## The House of Losers

WASHINGTON — When the history of the Clinton administration is written, its epitaph might be: "They Couldn't Find Anything. Never have so many items been lost by so few."

An example of this came to light several weeks ago when the president was dressing for a state dinner, and he said to Hillary,

"Where are my socks?"

Hillary responded, "I haven't seen Buchwald them. Are you sure you had some?"

"I thought I did," said the president. "I'll call my legal counsel." He picked up the phone. "Did I have black socks in the chest of drawers in my bedroom?"

"None that you have to worry about, sir," came the reply.

"I need them for the state dinner tonight."

The lawyer said, "I'll have my people search for them, although I hate to take them off their regular job. They have been so busy answering sub-

poenas for a smoking gun that if they have to look for your socks they'll fall behind."

Clinton said, "O.K., call the FBI. Maybe they can find my socks."

"With all due respect, sir, I don't think we should call the FBI. They may not find your socks, but they're bound to find something else we don't want Janet Reno to know about."

Hillary was getting nervous. "Maybe you could borrow a pair from Al Gore."

The president said, "I don't want him to know that I can't find my socks. He might lose respect for me."

"Yes, but you promised to let your vice president in on everything in case he had to take over the presidency at a moment's notice."

"I'm sure they're in the White House somewhere."

Hillary asked, "Did you look on the third floor?"

"Why the third floor?"

"Because that's where everything we lose is usually found."

"I'll send the housekeeper there."

Clinton looked anxiously at his watch. "But the Chinese premier is almost here. I have no choice but to greet him without any socks on."

## Letter From Napoleon Is Sold for \$112,000

Agence France-Press

PARIS — A letter from Napoleon Bonaparte to his wife was auctioned for 650,000 francs (about \$112,000) here Wednesday, more than three times the estimate.

In the letter dated March 30, 1796, Napoleon wrote: "I have not spent a night without holding you in my arms. . . . Only my adorable Josephine is in my heart, occupies my mind, absorbs my thoughts."

Hillary said helpfully, "If you stand up all evening nobody will notice."

The president was about to go downstairs when the housekeeper came rushing in. "I found them, sir."

"Where?"

"Between the Rose law firm's billing records and the White House tapes of you having coffee with the Hong Kong soccer team."

## Civil War Novel Strikes a Prize-Winning Chord

By David Streitfeld  
Washington Post Service

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina — Charles Frazier is 47, a good-looking, soft-spoken, seriously bearded mountain man who is overqualified for acceptance into the Sons of Confederate Veterans. His great-great-grandfather, his great-uncle and various other ancestors all fought for the proud, doomed South.

Frazier never had much interest in that bloody strife. He didn't visit battlefields. He spurned reenactments. He hated the way Southerners romanticized their defeat. He never joined those Sons of Confederate Veterans. The last thing he planned was to write a book about the Civil War.

Yet that turned out to be the historical setting for his first novel, "Cold Mountain," which won the National Book Award Tuesday. True, there are only a few battlefield scenes: The plot concerns the trek that the hero, Inman, makes from his hospital bed in Raleigh back up to his home on Cold Mountain, in the far western corner of North Carolina. This is where Ada, the woman he loves, is waiting; half of the story is about her transition from an inefficient society belle to a strong, independent woman.

Yet every move that Inman and Ada make is affected by the war; it's the backdrop against which

they and the other characters move. "Cold Mountain" is on track to become the most popular novel about the conflict since "Gone With the Wind." Nearly a million copies have been printed since June.

This is only one of the contradictions of the "Cold Mountain" phenomenon. Among the others: The year's most acclaimed writer sold exactly one work of fiction before this, a story to Kansas Quarterly. A book that didn't get the big hype from the mass media outlasted any that did. An intensely local story proved to have universal appeal.

Most important, there's this: Huge numbers of people in our urbanized, high-tech, not-a-minute-to-loose society are finding themselves touched by a leisurely paced historical tale about no-tech backwoods folk with whom we would seem to have nothing in common, unless you've recently butchered a hog, scythed a field or killed a man after luring him into the woods with the call of a wild turkey.

Don't look to the author for resolution of this puzzle. He's as mystified as anyone. But he notes that "Cold Mountain" is a tribute to a way of life that was once ubiquitous in the United States: rural, self-sufficient, suspicious of change for its own sake, independent in thought and action, involved with the land in almost a spiritual way.

"Cold Mountain" is intensely



Charles Frazier, the author of "Cold Mountain."

visual and frequently beautiful, full of old-fashioned words like "spurge" and "offscourings" and "ruching," and unexpectedly droll. Here, for instance, is a snippet about

a young mountain woman named Ruby, who "had heard stories of the northern country and had come to understand that it was a godless land, or rather a land of only one god, and that was money. The report was that under the rule of such a grabby creed people grew mean and bitter and deranged until, for lack of higher forms of spirit comfort, entire families became morphine-crazed. They had, as well, invented a holiday called Thanksgiving, which Ruby had only recently got news of, but from what she gathered its features to be, she found it to contain the mark of a tainted culture. To be thankful on just the one day."

Frazier wanted the novel to be very regional. "But I didn't want dialect. I felt the music and the rhythm were the way to do it, rather than spell things funny." The book

doesn't use quotation marks for dialogue, because their absence forced Frazier to work harder, to identify who was talking through their very words.

The Civil War and the Vietnam War were two American conflicts in which large numbers of potential soldiers had no interest in fighting. In a more combative time than today, a novel about a deserter probably wouldn't sell well, or would at least become controversial. But with the country at peace, with no grand social movements, with political leaders inspiring zero interest, "Cold Mountain" reflects the national mood. The personal is paramount; the family is the only unit that matters.

The side that Inman abandons is the Confederacy, a cause that still kindles emotions in the South. In South Carolina, for instance, there's still enough sentiment for the Confederacy to allow its flag to fly over the state capitol. Yet one small local bookstore, the Happy Bookseller, has sold more than 900 copies of "Cold Mountain."

It's another of the contradictions surrounding the book. The store's co-owner, Rhet Jackson, believes that "the popularity of this book with South Carolinians gives evidence they've gotten over some of their support of the things they fought for in the Civil War." Either that or "book readers tend to be more enlightened than people who don't read."

His wife, Katherine, who met her husband in school in 1974, played a hand in getting the novel published. Frazier had met Raleigh novelist Kaye Gibbons through his daughter's school, and Katherine persuaded him to show Gibbons some chapters. She in turn showed it to her agent, who assigned it to an assistant who had never sold a book before. An editor at Atlantic Monthly Press bought it for a sum just over six figures about two years ago. It was her first book, too.

Fame and fortune would follow. "He was my little secret for all these years," says Katherine. "Now the secret's out."

## Winners of National Book Awards

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — "Cold Mountain," the best-selling Civil War novel by Charles Frazier, won the National Book Award for fiction.

The poetry prize went to William Meredith, for "Efforts of Speech: New and Selected Poems," described as the poet's "definitive" collection.

Joseph Ellis, a professor of history at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, won the nonfiction prize for "American Sphinx: The Character of Thomas Jefferson," and the prize for young people's literature went to an Alabama writer, Han Nolan, for "Dancing on the Edge," about a young girl fighting for her sanity and the psychiatrist who helps her.

The nonprofit National Book Foundation, which administers the awards announced Tuesday evening, gave its medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters to the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and syndicated radio commentator Studs Terkel.

The judges cited Frazier's "Cold Mountain" for being a novel "in which we again see war breeding craziness, a story like 'The Odyssey,' about attempting to heal by going home." "Cold Mountain" won over Don DeLillo's "Underworld," which many observers had expected to win.

Also nominated for fiction were Diane Johnson's "Le Divorce," "Echo House," by Ward Just, and "The Pinneress Papers" by Cynthia Ozick.

## MUSIC

## The Other Russian Opera: A Maverick's 'Eugene Onegin'

By Michael Spector  
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — It has been a long time since Russian musicians or artists were forced to submit their work to Communist censors before presenting it to the public. Perhaps as a reaction to so many years of stifling regularity, experimental productions of classical plays and operas have now become routine here.

Liberties are taken with even the most standard works. Still, there are limits: Altering the music of Tchaikovsky, probably this country's most beloved composer, would seem to exceed them. To many, even minor changes to "Eugene Onegin," the composer's intimate, lyrical exploration of the border between passion and fate, would be a clear act of heresy.

"Ob, people can scream as long as they come and see it," said Yevgeni Kolobov, the iconoclastic conductor whose company, the Novaya Opera, is performing its searing, spare version of Tchaikovsky's most popular romantic opera on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theatre through Nov. 30.

"The composer gave this opera to us to live with," Kolobov said recently during an interview in the aging, cramped theater that he and the company will soon vacate for a new, far larger home. Kolobov has resumed Tchaikovsky's original ending and focused heavily on the tragedy within the plot. "I must act as a translator of Obshchaya Gazeta." "But we can now say there exists a great musician again in this country. And his name is Yevgeni Kolobov." Parin had particular praise for the conductor's insistence on producing work that other companies ignore. He said his romanticism and freedom of thought were each evocatively on display in his production of "Eugene Onegin."

"I think by forgetting about every other interpretation and looking at the music as if it were new, the work there is unforgettable," he said. The company alternates operatic presentations with concerts and evenings for soloists.

The company was invited to New York as part of the 850th-anniversary celebration for the city of Moscow. It is the first time such a group will have made an extended stay on Broadway. "Broadway," Kolobov chews a bit on the word as he speaks it, "it was not my dream. But we have some very talented young people in this collective, and I'll get them some exposure, and if the American opera fans can have some pleasure, well then Broadway will be fine."



Yevgeni Kolobov, director of the Novaya Opera.

does not mind admitting that he subscribes to her fully romantic notion of life and of music.

"I don't even like to use the word genius," said Alexei Parin, opera critic for the newspaper Obshchaya Gazeta. "But we can now say there exists a great musician again in this country. And his name is Yevgeni Kolobov." Parin had particular praise for the conductor's insistence on producing work that other companies ignore. He said his romanticism and freedom of thought were each evocatively on display in his production of "Eugene Onegin."

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Although trained conservatively in the Russian tradition, Kolobov has long been famous, some would also say obstinate, for his refusal to pursue the musical goals of others. That could explain why, without hesitation or regret, he turned down an offer to become director of the Bolshoi Opera, a company that has been plagued by recent troubles but is still the most famous vocal group in Russia. The conductor's position is considered among the most prestigious jobs in the world of Russian music.

"Prestige is not everything," he said of the decision to stay away from the highly ritualized and regulated world of the Bolshoi.

"I want to die my own death. They must do what is required of them at the Bolshoi. The same works every year. Maybe something new once a season. I know my character too well. I would have been taken out on a stretcher after six months."

Instead, he has found a haven in the Novaya Opera. Unlike the Bolshoi, which until recently was unable to hire contract performers and functioned much like a Russian factory, Kolobov set up a contract system from the day he started. Many of the musicians are young; and while, like most performers in Russia, they are poorly paid, they do receive their salaries, which are guaranteed by the city.

The Novaya Opera has toured in Europe and throughout Russia. More than 140 singers and orchestra musicians traveled to New York for the performances at the Martin Beck. The company, which has as its principal patron Yuri Luzkov, the powerful mayor of Moscow, was founded in 1991, "as the Soviet Union was brought to its death," Kolobov said. Luzkov, a man who usually gets what he wants, ordered a new opera house built for the group, and it is scheduled to open next month.

In a city with four other major opera companies, Kolobov has simple goals: to bring a fresh perspective to the classics, and to present music that is rarely heard. At one point earlier this year, for example, there were five productions of "Eugene Onegin" onstage somewhere in Moscow. Kolobov's, the least traditional, received by far the most favorable response.

"There is such a sea of music that we don't even know," Kolobov said. "And it's not obscure because it is bad. It just isn't known. Verdi has 25 to 26 operas, and we know 3 of them. Donizetti has 72 operas, and we know 3. I am talking about professional musicians. Others don't even know this many. It's remarkable, beautiful music. Why not perform it? How many Toscas do we need?"

## PEOPLE

THE French fashion designer Claude Montana, who first made a name for himself 20 years ago with leather and lots of shoulder pads, has filed for bankruptcy, French court documents show. Montana took the step in October, just a few days after showing his new spring-summer collection in Paris. According to court documents, the company is now in a six-month observation period. If Montana fails to come up with a payment plan, French courts can liquidate the company or put it up for auction in April. Montana is one of a dwindling number of French designers who still work in private, one-designer houses. Big names like Dior and Lacroix have either gone public or are part of major corporations.

The movie star turned animal rights campaigner Brigitte Bardot has strong opinions about at least one member of the fashion industry. The designer Jean Paul Gaultier, she said, is "a boorish lout" who dresses women "to look like scarecrows." She was particularly offended by Gaultier's "revolting and repugnant" use of a red fox fur bolero in a show last summer. Gaultier's response? The July collection contained not just one but two fox boleros, one in red fox, the other in silver fox.

The French composer-performer Jean-Michel Jarre says that President Fidel Castro has asked him to organize a concert marking the 40th anniversary of the Cuban revolution next year. Jarre said he would meet the Cuban leader in February for talks about the big open-air Havana concert to be held Dec. 31, 1998, as the high-point of the anniversary celebration.

Jimmy Carter has a simple explanation for why his popularity has increased since he left the White House. "People just seem to be hungry for something that's honest and decent," Carter said. "It's hard to criticize someone when he's working for world peace and building a house for poor people." The 73-year-old former president said.

The office of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, denied a report that she had planned to play herself opposite the actor Kevin Costner in a sequel to the hit movie "The Bodyguard." The New York Post had reported that Costner began talks with Diana on her role a



ROYAL FAMILY — Prince Albert of Monaco with his sisters Stephanie, left, and Caroline attending a parade on Monaco National Day on Wednesday.

year before her death in a Paris car crash in August. "Diana and I talked on the phone about the level of sophistication and dignity that the party would have," the Post quoted the actor as saying. But in a terse statement, Kensington Palace said "no such negotiations ever took place."

Janet Jackson won a court order to keep away a man who claims her latest single, "Together Again," stole from his song. The order bars Eric Leon Christian 25, of Baltimore, who Jackson claims has been threatening her with letters and phone calls, from contacting Jackson or employees at her Black Doll production company.

John F. Kennedy Jr. is shooting back at photographers. Losing patience after being chased by photographers for years, Kennedy has taken to videotaping paparazzi who stake out his apartment, the New York Daily News reported. "Hey, guy with the green jacket!" he was quoted as yelling at a photographer as Kennedy's camcorder rolled. "You're here every weekend. You're looking for a harassment lawsuit."

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